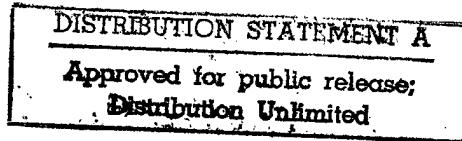


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Near East & South Asia



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8 June 1993

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

Resistance Factions in Yemen Condemn Peace Talks

93P0192A Nicosia *AL-HURRIYAH* in Arabic
9 May 93 p 12

[Text] The Palestinian Resistance Factions in the Republic of Yemen have stated that the decision for the Palestinian team to participate in the ninth round [of peace talks] is an illegitimate decision and contradicts the will of the Palestinian people both inside and outside the occupied territories.

In a communique issued at the end of last month [April], the factions said that Palestinian participation in the negotiations is a bow to pressures from the U.S. administration and Israeli conditions. They demanded withdrawal from the negotiations to save what remains of national unity and to prevent greater division of the Palestinian arena. They congratulated the Palestinian people in the territories and proclaimed their adherence to the right of return, [self-]determination, and an independent state. They also called for a comprehensive national dialogue in order to emerge from the state of divisiveness, and for maintaining the PLO as an executor and national framework for all national forces and factions on the basis of adhering to the national constants.

The communique was signed by the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front.

LE MONDE Estimates Hamas Finances, Sources

93WR0254A Paris *LE MONDE* in French 29 Apr 93 p 5

[Article by Jerusalem correspondent: "Israel Facing the 'Green Peril'"]

[Excerpt] The financing sources of Hamas are very diversified. No foreign "banker" can claim to control the Hamas Islamic resistance movement. Tehran—which, according to Ehud Yaari, an Arab affairs expert, allocated Hamas \$30 million in subsidies for 1993—no more than the others. In fact, Islamic institutions in Saudi Arabia and the Emirates also contribute varying amounts.

Even Kuwait, whose rulers praised Hamas sheiks for their silence during the Gulf war, when the PLO was siding with Saddam Husayn, turns a blind eye to the stream of "private" subsidies that flow toward Gaza mosques. Finally, there is the Palestinian diaspora in the United States and Europe, many of whom possess houses

or shops in the occupied territories and regularly grant the "brothers" tidy sums, either to support them or to be left in peace.

All this comes in addition to the funds collected every Friday in the 700 to 800 mosques of the territories. Inland Palestinians are poor, and therefore generous. "On any Friday," Sheik Nazir Al Luqah, one of the most popular preachers in Gaza, boasted in front of us, "we collect around 4,000 shekels" (about 8,000 francs [Fr]). Certainly, Sheik Al Luqah, trained in Egypt and, like many Palestinians, expelled from that country after Anwar al-Sadat's assassination in 1981, is the head of the largest and most modern of the territory's mosques: three stories of white stone purchased from a Jewish merchant in Ashkelon, and built three years ago, when the intifadah was in full swing.

Tal Sultan's Bilal mosque, in the Rafah refugee camp, can contain 6,000 pilgrims. Knowing that Hamas and its confederates control most of Gaza's more than 200 places of worship and an increasing number of minarets on the West Bank, one can imagine the huge amounts that can be collected every week. They are so rich, Zyad Abou-Amar, professor at the Bir Zeit university and the author of a reference book on the Muslim Brothers, noted, that, last week again, the "Islamic students bloc" of the faculty—which not so long ago was a mecca for secular nationalism—offered to take over the university cafeteria and the management of the girls dormitory to alleviate Bir Zeit's disastrous financial situation.

Good Deeds

Islamic Universities (Gaza, Hebron), faculties and ordinary technical colleges, chambers of commerce (including the richest in Hebron and Ramallah), hospitals, professional associations, labor unions (including the most prosperous, that of the UNRWA employees—the United Nations Relief and Works Agency), sports clubs, clinics, charitable associations, etc.: the Islamic current in the territories has taken the time to spin its web, and it is now supplanting the PLO in its traditional strongholds. Forced by events to Islamize somewhat its position, the PLO has no choice but to try and set up its own charitable associations, especially in Gaza. It thus hopes to channel at least part of the financial flow.

Actually, most of the committees that manage the zakat—the tithe that every good Muslim must pay, up to a maximum of 2.5 percent of his cash resources—are now under the fundamentalists' control. But these charitable committees happen to drain a lot of money. "Last year alone," the chairman of the Hebron zakat committee told us, "we spent over \$1 million in good works to help the poor." And the new Islamists, contrary to some others, have a reputation for rock-solid probity.

Discipline and organization. These are also the first qualities that all their opponents acknowledge the "soldiers of Islam," the Al Qassam commandos possess. They know how to move about, how to stay clear of informers and collaborators. According to our unnamed

expert on counterterrorism, "they also know how to commend their souls to God and die for their cause." On the walls of mosques, from the seediest to the poshest, calls to the struggle and pictures of "martyrs," kamikazes in kaffiyehs who fell for "the cause" in the name of Ezzedine Al Qassam, are far more numerous than other kinds.

"Even though Yasser Arafat's Fatah is still leading the largest number of attacks against us," the military intelligence boss also confided, "their attacks are less impressive, less effective, and therefore less murderous." And General Saguy added: "The attacks claimed by Al Qassam groups are marked by intensive use of firearms, cruelty, and the will to make as many victims as possible."

An Overestimated Danger?

Their effectiveness and their popularity, according to Jean-Francois Legrain, one of the best Western experts on the Palestinian struggle, "are comparable to those of the Islamic Jihad in the year 1986-87." Now split into four or five separate factions, the Jihad never recovered from the large waves of Israeli repression that fell on its leaders (expelled) and its rank and file (killed or jailed).

Even though they will perform a spectacular operation once in a while, the Jihad groups, viewed as mere Iranian or Syrian cards in the occupied territories complex game, practically left the field in 1988. The great difference with the Al Qassam networks, the French CNRS [National Center for Scientific Research] researcher based in Jordan explained, is that the Al Qassam networks, although issued from the international Muslim Brotherhood movement, like the Jihad, "rely on the support of a genuine political organization and an authentic mass movement." [passage omitted]

Nusaybah Expects 'Comprehensive Settlement' From Talks

93AA0056A London *AL-HAYAH* in Arabic 2 May 93
p 3

[Article by Mu'awiyah Ahmad: "Nusaybah: Rabin Will Set a Time Schedule for the Negotiations"]

[Text] Athens—Dr. Sari Nusaybah, a member of the directing committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations with Israel, predicted that the current negotiations in Washington would succeed in reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He thought that this would be achieved in a period that was short, but "arduous and exhausting."

Nusaybah told *AL-HAYAH* in Athens, where the Jerusalem conference that the United Nations convened under the sponsorship of the Greek Government concluded last Thursday: "A quick inventory of the facts existing today makes it likely that the negotiations will develop to the level of agreement. I consider it likely that the negotiations will succeed and that a settlement will

be reached involving not only the Palestinians but also the Middle East region generally. The settlement will have fundamental long-term effects on the region's economy, social reality, and daily life in the direction of progress and development in the region."

He added: "The negotiations will be arduous and exhausting, but not long." He predicted that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would propose a definite time schedule for the course of the negotiations.

He thought that Rabin "will not be able to back out of the promises he made to his voting base. He will find himself forced to reach an agreement with the Palestinian side." He warned that "Rabin wants to fill the Palestinian side with discouragement in order to improve his negotiating position. We must realize this and not leave him the opportunity to exploit time to his advantage."

Alluding to pessimistic statements by the head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, Dr. Haydar 'Abdal-Shafi, Nusaybah said: "The mistake is to tie one's feelings to particular events such as one negotiating round. In my view, we must deal with the negotiations as a battle having stages and strategic goals. We must expect the opposing party to try to spread discouragement and frustration. We must be careful not to fall into the trap."

He continued: "Sooner or later, we shall be able to cross the distance, reach the Israeli positions, and infiltrate them. What we need first is belief in what we are doing. Then we need strategic vision, will, patience, and determination." Nusaybah praised the stand of the Greek people and their government on the Palestinian issue.

Organizations Refuse To Apply for Jerusalem Permits

93AA0056B London *AL-HAYAH* in Arabic 2 May 93
p 3

[Article by Rabi al-Husari: "Palestinian Organizations Reject Dealing With Military Government"]

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem—A number of Palestinian organizations headquartered in occupied East Jerusalem have adopted a position rejecting dealing with departments of the military government in the occupied territories to take out entry permits for Arab Jerusalem.

Thirty-seven economic, cultural, informational, medical, and other organizations interested in human rights issued a statement yesterday announcing their rejection in principle of submitting applications to Israeli authorities to obtain permits for their employees, workers, and directors to enter Jerusalem. The Palestinian organizations warned about making the carrying of a Jerusalem identity card a condition for obtaining employment, as some of these organizations have begun doing since the occupied territories were closed.

At the beginning of the siege imposed on the city, the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations requested permits for its members to enter Jerusalem, but after encountering strong criticism from the Palestinian street, declined to renew the permits when they expired.

This is considered the first time that Palestinians have replied collectively to Israel's imposition of a fait accompli on the city by insisting on closing its entry points to Palestinians who live on the West Bank. The action comes about five weeks after the closure of the occupied territories.

The organizations that signed the statement said they would face great difficulty in carrying out the tasks for which they were responsible in various fields, now that they were separated from the majority of the people to whom they were providing their services. They added that Palestinians could no longer obtain specialized treatment or public and private educational services. They had also become unable to reach the informational and cultural organizations concentrated in Jerusalem. Development organizations in the fields of lending, training, and research had ceased to provide their services because they could not reach the relevant public.

The statement indicated that at a time when Israel was acting to prevent Palestinians from working in Israel and was asking interested governments and countries to help them find alternatives and invest in the infrastructure of the occupied territories: "Israel was placing obstacles to the relevant Palestinian organizations. These organizations, which for well-known reasons are concentrated in Jerusalem, could offer residents their contribution in this field." It should be noted that Israeli authorities prohibit these organizations from establishing branches in the West Bank and Gaza.

The organizations believe that if they in practice accept Jerusalem's being separate from the rest of the occupied territories, with entry to it allowed only in accordance with Israeli security stipulations, Israel's goals will have been achieved—namely, insistence on the de facto annexation of Jerusalem. This would place pressure on the organizations located there to force them to move their offices to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Since the isolation of the West Bank and Gaza, the UN Palestinian Refugee Relief Agency (UNRWA) has refused to take out permits for its employees and workers from these areas, except for 40 permits for employees whose work is considered vital in terms of the services they provide, such as ambulance drivers and workers in the emergency and medical services department.

The agency's spokesman, Sandro (Tocci), told AL-HAYAH that the agency was still consulting with officials at U.N. headquarters in New York to decide what to do if Israel insisted on maintaining the siege on the occupied territories. He indicated that the agency's position on Jerusalem was "the position that the United

Nations espoused—the demand that Israel withdraw from all the territory it occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem."

Frayj: No Danger in Bilateral Peace With Israel

93AA0056C London *AL-HAYAH* in Arabic 1 May 93
p 5

[Article by Hashim 'Ali Mandi: "Bethlehem Mayor: No Danger in Bilateral Peace With Israel"]

[Text] Vienna—The mayor of Bethlehem, Mr. Ilyas Frayj, said there could be no solution to the Palestinian problem without a final settlement of the Jerusalem issue. He held that there was no danger in realizing bilateral peace between Israel and any Arab state in the context of mutual bilateral agreements.

In a lecture delivered Wednesday night in Vienna, Frayj said: "The question of internationalizing Jerusalem and its ruler must be brought back if Israel really wants to enjoy real peace. This is its only option, because Israel will remain like a small island in a wide Arab sea."

Bethlehem's mayor, who is visiting Austria on an official invitation from Mayor Helmut (Zilk), explained that: "Palestinians have fully extended the hand of peace. Israel must take advantage of this opportunity and stop hindering the peace efforts of the international community."

He praised the efforts of American Secretary of State Warren Christopher to revive the negotiations after a hiatus of over four months. He stressed activating the European role in the Middle East peace process.

He added that he saw "no danger from realizing bilateral peace between Israel and any Arab state" in the context of mutual bilateral agreements, particularly because "Itzhak Rabin's government is prepared to offer concessions to Syria on the Golan Heights, because it is convinced that its one option for obtaining peace is returning occupied land to its owners."

Bethlehem's mayor warned of "dangerous conditions in the occupied territories because of the policies of Israeli authorities during 26 years of occupation." He pointed out that Israel "has built more than 150 settlements in the occupied territories thus far. On the other hand, there is 60-percent unemployment among Palestinian youths, and thousands of them have been thrown into detention camps."

Frayj compared the actions of the previous Likud government and those of the current Labor government. He said: "All hopes for improved conditions after Labor's coming to power were scattered after the mass deportation and the closing of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Likud never engaged in such actions during its rule."

Frayj will go to Sweden and Denmark on a European tour aimed at activating the European role in the peace process and supporting building projects.

Wages Down, Gold Sales Up in Territories

93AA0074A Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew
19 May pp 2-3

[Article by Yehuda Litani: "Hungry for Bread, Selling Gold"; quotation marks as published]

[Text] "Whoever wants to hold onto the territories must know that a basis must be provided for this possession and that the Government of Israel must be regarded as the government that is responsible for what goes on in the territories and for the residents being able to live there without hunger. And the only thing that we can offer to the seeker of work today and tomorrow, and in the coming month and in the month after that—is work in our economy. Let them come and work among us and take home every day 10 or 15 liras...." (Moshe Dayan at a meeting with students, Bar-Ilan University, 29 April 1969)

Only one store was open on Goldsmiths' Street in the neighborhood of the old municipal plaza in Hebron last Wednesday, at 1430. Even though the rules of the intifadah allow merchants in the territories to keep their shops open until 1700, most of the shops in the city and in the market of Hebron were locked up.

The market was empty. No movement, no buyers, no sellers, everything almost dead since the beginning of the closure, said 'Abd el-Eyni el-Sharif, the owner of the only jewelry store on the street that was open. There were a few peasants there who had come to sell their gold jewelry. They negotiated over the sale. 'Abd el-Eyni, and his brother Kamal el-Sharif requested that those present not be photographed.

Wait in the street for a few minutes and come back afterwards, 'Abd el-Eyni said to me, it is not pleasant, they are selling the only valuables that they own, they are parting from them forever and this is a sad affair.

That morning, the French news agency published a news item from Nablus that said that the goldsmiths there had related that for the first time in the history of the West Bank, since June 1967, sales of gold from customers to goldsmiths had exceeded purchases of gold and jewelry from the goldsmiths. A report on a massive movement of female peasants and urban women who are parting from their jewelry. They are selling to goldsmiths and asking for cash.

They are down to their last crumbs of bread, Kamal el-Sharif told me. It has been going on like this since the early morning and up to closing time. They are coming to sell jewelry to finance the purchase of food. For us, he continued, it is not worth keeping the shop open until 1700, because the action is sellers only. For all of us, all of the goldsmiths on this street, the cash has been depleted. We broke our bank savings to finance this tremendous movement of sellers. What can we say to them? That we, too, have no money to buy their gold?

There was great rage in the el-Sharif brothers' jewelry shop. Merchants from the area and friends who happened by gathered there, to release the burden of anger and frustration after they heard that an Israeli journalist had arrived at the goldsmiths' shop. Generally, they told me, Israelis do not come to us and take an interest in our situation. We, they said, must go to the Civil Administration and relate our troubles there—and they, in 99 percent of the cases, dismiss us with vague replies.

They do not want to hear, they have already heard too much. Their instructions, you know, are to continue the closure without concessions. It appeared to me last Thursday in the el-Sharif brothers' shop that I had never seen such an outburst of anger in the territories. With a feeling of helplessness, of degradation. Even during the prolonged curfew that was imposed on the city of Hebron in 1980, after the terrorist action in which seven Israeli settlers were murdered, such talk was not heard.

You brought us to this, said one of the Hebronites who happened to come to the shop, you connected our economy and your economy. We did not ask you to do that. And now, people who once worked and brought home nice salaries from Israel, are scrounging in trashcans here in the market, trying to find leftover fruit and vegetables. What have we come to? Last year, said 'Abd el-Eyni el-Sharif, was the worst year of all from the economic viewpoint, but after the imposition of the closure the situation has simply become terrible.

Do you see this ring?, asked 'Abd el-Eyni after rummaging through a drawer and pulling out a simple gold ring. An hour ago, exactly an hour ago, someone came here. He had worked as a construction laborer in Israel. He has been unemployed almost two months already, and I paid him NIS [new Israeli shekels] 40 for it. He came here with his wife, who held a baby in her arms. They told me that they need to buy milk for the child and they do not have money, they simply do not know from where to get the money, and the baby must drink milk. The ring is actually worth NIS 65, but because of the situation today we pay only according to the weight of the gold, we do not take into account the work that went into turning the gold into a piece of jewelry.

Since the beginning of the closure, added his brother Kamal, not one buyer has come to the shop and asked to buy a gram of gold so that we will fashion a piece of jewelry for him, and tens of such buyers used to come here every day. The peasants, said Kamal, buy gold jewelry for their wives, because that is actually their life insurance and pension. They keep the jewelry for a stormy day. And now the stormiest day that they could imagine has come—they cannot feed the members of their families. The male and female peasants come to the goldsmiths shops here, and you cannot imagine what kind of talk we hear. They really cannot stand your government, they hate it because it forced them into this difficult situation, because it forced them to become degraded. And a human being who has no food and no livelihood—is capable of anything.

When a human being is working, said 'Abd el-Eyni, and he has an income, he does not have time for useless talk. He must work, but when he does not have work, he suddenly has a lot of time and he starts to talk. And what will he talk about now? Against your government. Among you, they did not understand when they imposed the closure that first of all it is necessary to find work for these people. One hundred thousand families, more than 1,000,000 persons in the territories, live from working in Israel. The laborers are the basis of our economy, as in a machine one wheel moves the other wheel.

If the laborer does not go to work in Israel, the taxi driver also will not work and the merchants in the market also will not work. They are our basis, and without them our economic life is shut down. The owner of a neighboring shop, an agent of the salt concern in Jericho, related that not only persons who work in Israel are idle—also factories in the West Bank have begun widespread layoffs of workers.

In the "Silvano" chocolate factory in Ramallah, he said, they laid off tens of workers, and that will happen in all the other large concerns. Production in the factories has dropped to 50 percent of their regular capacity—it is one big cycle that begins with our laborers who work in Israel. Unemployed persons from local firms are now joining the unemployed who work in Israel, and that is not good—not for us and not for you.

[Box, p 2]

Gaza. There Is Nothing To Sell

In a news item that was published in the East Jerusalem daily AL-NAHAR of 12 May 1993, the newspaper's reporter in Gaza cited interviews with residents in the Strip, who tell of their distress. Rafik Muhammed Hamed, aged 25, from the Jabaliya refugee camp, who had worked as a construction laborer in Israel, tells that in addition to concern for the livelihood of his wife, himself, and their five children, he used to finance the studies of his two brothers who are studying abroad. Now, with the continuation of the closure and in view of the fact that he has not been granted a work permit in Israel, he is forced to sell his wife's jewelry.

Jihad Abu Hater, aged 34, from the el-Bureij refugee camp, provides for five children, the youngest of which is a six-months-old son, worked until the beginning of the closure in the construction branch in the Rehovot area. He tells that he has reduced food purchases greatly. "We are living abstemiously today and are spending half of what we used to spend on food. I have only NIS 2,000 left," says Abu Hater, "that is the amount that I have, and I take from it to exist. What will happen afterwards, I do not know."

Ahmed Sarsur aged 57, from the Jabaliya refugee camp, unemployed, provides for a family of 16 persons. His wife was employed as a maid in Israel, and now, with the

continuation of the closure, he was forced to sell her jewelry. "We do not have anything left to sell in order to buy food," he says.

Salman Abu 'Ar'aba, aged 32, from the village of Dir el-Balah, worked until the closure as a laborer in a tomato field of an Israeli agriculturist. The livelihood of 15 family members depends on him. He sought a permit to work in Israel, but it was denied. Abu 'Ar'aba went to his Israeli employer with the request that he act on his behalf for the renewal of his permit, but the latter replied that he had already obtained Jewish workers in his place. His employer owes him NIS 200, but he did not succeed in getting to him due to the closure. He had to stop paying his children's tuition on account of his severe economic hardship. [end of box]

You imposed the closure on account of the knifers, said 'Abd el-Eyni el-Sharif, the owner of the jewelry store, but as long as you do not give us our rights, there will be knifers, that is a fact. But, continued 'Abd el-Eyni, the talks in Washington are a lot of empty talk, because you do not want to give us anything.

Safwan, a youth from East Jerusalem who also happened to come to the shop, said to me: You see yourself, people here see that nothing will come out of Washington for us. Here in the West Bank, everything is shut down and there is no work and no food. So all day long they think only about how to pay you back for all the great evil that you are doing to them. The result: they take a knife and go to Israel. Even if you impose a closure with walls of iron, people will find a way to enter Israel in order to take revenge.

Rasmi Jabber, a Hebronite in his late forties, stood quietly all the time next to the goldsmiths' counter and listened to the talk. Suddenly he burst out. He silenced all the others and spoke with blazing eyes, he turned red from anger, and the words that emerged from his mouth were loud, almost a shout: you want to know why people seek revenge? OK! Listen to what happened to my children and understand.

I have three sons, one aged 18, the second aged 16, and the third aged 13. Throughout the intifadah, listen well, all the last five and a half years, I forbid my children to participate in throwing stones. I am not looking for trouble, neither for myself nor for my children. And it was not easy, because the atmosphere was difficult and the children did not understand why I forbade them, when all of their friends were throwing stones.

A few months ago, settlers from Qiryat Arba came here, grabbed my eldest son—aged 18, and for no reason, believe me—for no reason, he had done nothing, hit him on the head with the butts of their pistols and shot him four times in the leg in order to frighten him. My son was wounded, his head was bleeding, and his legs were bleeding as a result of the shots. The youngest son, aged 13, saw how they were hitting and degrading his brother and decided to go against my injunction against throwing stones. He threw stones at your army men and

now he is in Megiddo prison. Do you hear me well? A small boy of 13 is in a prison so far off. And they let me and his mother visit him only once since the beginning of the imprisonment, two months ago. Because of the closure they do not let us leave here. He is a small boy and longs for his parents and we are going crazy.

Rasmi Jabber looked very angry. Hearing his shouting, more passers-by arrived at the shop. And he continued: do you think that is the only thing that happened to me? Four years ago, army men broke into my home during searches, broke the entrance door and stole gold jewelry worth NIS 40,000. I complained at the police—here is a copy of the complaint—and to this day I have not received an answer from them. Your complaint is being attended to, I was told. They are simply laughing in our faces. When we come to your police to complain, added Saftawi from East Jerusalem, they say to us: do not complain to us, complain to Yassir 'Ar'afat, let him take care of you.

And we have not yet told you anything about the thefts here, said the shop owner 'Abd el-Eyni el-Sharif. Members of the underworld here, the thieves, are generally informers for the Shabak. So if we complain against them, the Shabak makes sure that the file is closed and there is no investigation or anything. And they continue to steal and to run wild because they know that no one can stop them. Rasmi Jabber listened to what was being said and tried to break into the words of the shop owner.

Finally he had a chance: so I told you already about the imprisonment of one son and the beating and wounding of the other son, about the bursting in of soldiers into my home, but I did not tell you about the car. One evening, a few months ago, the settlers here shattered all of the windows and damaged the car with iron bars. I do not have the money to repair the car, and it still looks like a wreck. In that case, as well, I submitted a complaint to the police, and as they had replied to you, so they replied to me.

So what will I think about you now, and about the situation in general and about the peace that you want to make with us in Washington? You are laughing at us!

'Abd el-Eyni el-Sharif tried to silence Rasmi Jabber, it seemed to him that the words were too extreme. So he added: We are sorry about any blood that is shed and oppose violence by any side. But look at the situation here, the peasants who search for food in the garbage, the buyers from the villages who use to buy a kilo of tea and now ask for 200 grams, or who used to buy large gas cylinders and now make do with small cylinders. People do not have money, there simply is no money. Once they would give to every child half a shekel for school, today they do not give. They stopped.

'Abd el-Hadi Sharba'aty, aged 38, enters the shop. Tell him, said 'Abd el-Eyni el-Sharif, tell him, he is an Israeli journalist, what happened with your son. Sharba'aty related that during the previous week his son was in a traffic accident, and he was injured seriously. I did not

want to take him to the local hospital, because among us it is known that whoever goes in there—does not come out, said Sharba'aty. A terrible hospital, with medieval treatment methods. I insisted that he be transferred to the el-Makasad Hospital in East Jerusalem.

So while he is bleeding there in the ambulance, the soldiers did not allow me to accompany him to Jerusalem because there is a closure. And so my child is transferred to el-Makasad by himself, without his mom or his dad. Is that a way to behave? I went to the Civil Administration and they said to me that nothing can be done, there is a closure, and I still haven't seen him.

At the exit from Hebron, the central plaza of the city, was a long line of empty automobiles, next to which stood their yawning drivers. They have been standing like that already since the beginning of the closure, said Safwan from East Jerusalem, no one can go out to Jerusalem and there is nothing to do in Ramallah or Nablus. There is no work there also, have you heard, they are also laying off factory workers there.

You have shut us up in one big cage, a Hebron cab driver said to me, in the beginning the rage comes out in internal squabbles: between the Hamas and the Fatah, and they are already planning to stab and to murder each other. But in a few more weeks, perhaps even in another few days, if the closure isn't lifted, it will be directed also against you: against soldiers, against clerks in the military government, and afterwards against innocent Israeli civilians in the street. Because it is like a pressure cooker here, in a matter of a few days it will explode.

Mahmoud Mutzlah Batanja (30), from the 'Akvat Jabber refugee camp near Jericho, worked until the beginning of the closure in the "Judaica B.M." mezzuzah factory, in the Giv'at Sha'ul industrial area in Jerusalem. His wages at the factory were NIS 90 a day. From the beginning of the closure, about six weeks ago, he was forced to begin to work in agricultural jobs in the Jericho region. "Today I work in bananas, difficult and exhausting work, 10 to 12 hours a day, and I get NIS 20 a day and thank God, because there are those who get NIS 15 a day for such work.

There is not work in the fields every day, continues Mahmoud Batanja, you work for a day and you wait a week for the next day of work. And you do not just wait for a day of work, but you also wait for the money. The Arab agriculturalists exploit the current distress and pay the temporary workers only advances.

Most of the residents of the camp have difficult economic problems. In the 'Akvat Jabber refugee camp live about 15,000 residents. Until June '67 about 100,000 refugees lived there, most of them fled to Jordan.

The problems began with the imposition of the closure and worsened in the last two weeks. Most of the men worked until the imposition of the closure in Israel or in the Jewish settlements in the vicinity. Now they are

forced to earn a living from absurd wages in comparison with what they earned in Israel.

Among us, continues Mahmoud, if you say: "I have no money to buy cigarettes," that means that the game is over. Because among us, it is more important to buy cigarettes than food.

[box, p 3]

They Eat an Orange. Instead of Stones

M.K., a 19-year-old soldier in compulsory service, was sent to the Gaza Strip with his unit last week. He was talking with his father over the telephone Saturday evening. He was shocked by the difficult situation that prevails there. And he told his father: They sent us to a neighborhood called el-Kuba el-Sharkiya, near the old border, next to Qibbutz Nahal 'Oz. During our patrol in the neighborhood, youths and boys threw stones at us. Among them were children aged three and four. There were perhaps 30 children dressed in faded rags, most of them barefoot.

They all threw stones at us. During the hubbub that ensued, one of our soldiers dropped an orange, which rolled onto the ground. All of the children stopped throwing stones and fell upon the orange—they fought over who would get the orange. They were hungry.

After the situation had calmed down, we sat quite far from there and began to eat, we opened up our rations. And then a strange thing happened—the same children who had thrown stones at us drew closer, and asked us to give them a bit of food and sweets. It was very strange, but it was clear that they were hungry, and we gave them a little food. [end of box]

EGYPT

NDP Deputy Discusses Peace Process Outcome

93AF0545A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
23 Apr 93 pp 20-22

[Interview with NDP (National Democratic Party) Deputy Dr. Mustafa Khalil by Sana' al-Sa'id; place and date not given]

[Text] Negotiations or a delay?

Just because a question is simple does not mean that it can be answered, because every moment presents a new deadline, far from the question and discussion. We go to Dr. Mustafa Khalil, the National Democratic Party's [NDP] deputy chairman for foreign relations, and one of the stars of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations that led to the Camp David agreement.

One of yesterday's peacemakers, Mustafa Khalil presents his prescription for today's negotiations. He also discusses the U.S. view, Israeli intransigence, the Palestinians' difficult position, and the efforts of other Arab parties.

[al-Sa'id] What are the chances of 1993 seeing a peace settlement in the region?

[Khalil] There are great chances now of reaching a settlement between Israel and the Arab parties with which Israel is holding bilateral talks. But it is difficult to say whether this will occur in 1993 or 1994. However, I can say that areas of disagreement can be resolved.

The Difficult Phase

[al-Sa'id] What are the most difficult subjects?

[Khalil] The most difficult subjects, I believe, concern the Palestinian side. They relate to two matters. The first, which is not mentioned in the Camp David accords, concerns Israel's current offer, which is that: land on which [Jewish] settlements have been established in the West Bank, which is 8 percent [of the West Bank], be under Israeli law; the land on which the Arabs live, which is 62 percent, be subject to autonomy; and the rest of the land, 30 percent, be under joint Israeli-Palestinian administration. This Camp David agreement makes absolutely no mention of this type of division, inasmuch as the entire West Bank was subject to Palestinian autonomy.

[al-Sa'id] Does this mean that Israel is now requesting part of the land as a fief?

[Khalil] The 30 percent are state lands that were previously subject to Jordanian-Palestinian rule. They are known as domain [?condominium] land. There is no doubt that they are disputed, a subject for negotiations, and to be subject to the West Bank's control. The determination of a position on the settlements will of course depend on the negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis.

The second matter, which is the crux of autonomy, is the abolition of the military governor and his civil administration. If they are abolished, it would be necessary to transfer the governor's authorities to the Palestinian autonomy. In this regard, it is necessary to determine the nature of the authorities that the Palestinian autonomy will exercise, as well as a method for finding a means to solve any future dispute between the Palestinian autonomy and the Israelis regarding a given interpretation that has been agreed. This will require negotiations, and I believe that it is resolvable.

[al-Sa'id] What about the mode for Palestinian autonomy?

[Khalil] This is another point. It would be through the holding of general elections to elect a Palestinian council. I would not give this council a name, but I would say that elections would occur in the West Bank and Gaza to select representatives for it. Regarding Israel's assertion that this council must not be legislative, in the Camp David accords, all of the negotiations proceeded on the basis that this council would have about 45 representatives, and that it would be a legislative council. If Israel

objects to this now, it will continue to be a topic of negotiations, because we do not accept these views as final. Otherwise, there would be no incentive to negotiate. Therefore, it is assumed that a group would be elected to this council. The council would exercise legislative authorities and would contain a judicial authority. These are the structures that must be present. They are present in the United States. Each state has its own legislative body, a governor, and a judicial authority, which are elected at different levels.

[al-Sa'id] But who would promulgate laws?

[Khalil] When I met with [Israeli Prime Minister] Mr. Rabin on my recent visit to Israel, I asked him who would promulgate laws regarding taxes and different affairs of life. Rabin said that the legislative council could promulgate bylaws or internal laws, which would have the force of legislation. I then got ahead of him by asking him about [and questioning] the fears generated by the idea of a legislative council, citing the many examples of such bodies, including the legislative council with limited authorities [formed in 1866] in Egypt during Khedive Isma'il's period, and the elected council that had legislative powers during the British occupation. Rabin's response was that Israel has two fears. The first is that this would imply the existence of an executive, legislative, and judicial authority, which suggests the appearance of a state, so that Israel would have thus agreed to the establishment of a [Palestinian] state. My response to Rabin was that this would not necessarily have to be considered the appearance of a state, as attested by the example of the United States, which is not a state, but rather exists within a given federal system.

Israel's other fear, which Rabin raised, is the possibility that this legislative council would promulgate a law declaring the independence of the West Bank and Gaza and the establishment of a Palestinian state. My response to him was that this legislative council, which would have the authority to issue bylaws, could also promulgate a bylaw with legislative force proclaiming the independence of the West Bank and Gaza. I asked Rabin, what would guarantee to you that the legislative council would not do this?

Negotiations

[al-Sa'id] This discussion between the two of you must have been a scenario of what could be negotiated regarding this problem.

[Khalil] I told him on that day that I did not come to negotiate, but to exchange views, ideas, and opinions. He told me that he was bringing up these points, which the Arab side must consider, because they are among the problems that the Palestinian negotiator faces. I told him that what he is considering happens only in the election of a club board or town council. It would be unprecedented for a land the size of the West Bank and Gaza to initiate the election of an executive council in the sense of a government. Regardless of whether it is called an

administration as in America, a government as is the case with us, or a self-government authority, its authorities would be executive. Someone would be responsible for financial matters, another for education, another for health, and so on. This has never happened. It is something new which they are proposing, and it is no doubt negotiable. Accordingly, it would be possible to establish a legislative council, which would not have among its authorities the promulgation of laws affecting the final status of the West Bank and Gaza. That would be a subject of negotiations between the elected Palestinian authority and the Israelis after the second stage. This is negotiable and resolvable. As is well known, the West Bank and Israel are now economically interrelated in a major way. It suffices to say that 120,000 workers from the occupied Arab lands go to Israel daily to work.

[al-Sa'id] That is no longer valid given Israel's imposition of a blockade on the occupied Arab lands more than three weeks ago through the imposition of a security cordon.

[Khalil] The security cordon will not continue to be imposed. It is for a limited period. I believe that it is highly possible that it will be lifted when negotiations begin. However, the fact that the Israeli economy is being deprived of this manpower no doubt has a negative effect on the Israeli economy, just as it has affected the economy of the West Bank and Gaza. Accordingly, I believe that it is a temporary measure which necessity will rule in favor of lifting.

The Settlements

[al-Sa'id] What is the possibility of removing the [Jewish] settlements in the occupied Arab lands?

[Khalil] This proposal has not been made. However, the Palestinians can propose it, and through Egypt. When [Egypt and Israel] negotiated, that was a basic condition. Then, there were the negotiations between Sadat and Begin. The subject of settlements was discussed with the U.S. administration, but it was the last matter raised and was mentioned with the full agreement at Camp David. Of course, when the Israelis find that the subject of settlements poses an obstacle to achieving peace, they will attempt to find a solution to it.

[al-Sa'id] However, it is said that, while it may be possible to remove the settlements in Gaza, it would be impossible to do so in the West Bank, where 120,000 settlers live.

[Khalil] It is possible to eliminate the settlements. The number of settlers in the West Bank is always exaggerated, because there are settlers who go [to the settlements only] on the weekends, and there are settlers who have exploited the advantages granted to them by Israel. However, Israel's housing minister recently issued new instructions to the effect that settlements whose construction begins now will not be granted the advantages granted to them before. This will of course not encourage more settlements. If advantages are not granted, the

settlements will contract automatically and disappear. In general, it would be possible to reach an agreement on their status, so that the Jewish settlers could live under Palestinian laws or Palestinian rule just as Arabs live under Israeli laws and rule.

[al-Sa'id] To what extent are you certain that Rabin has a true solution in mind and that he is not attempting to maneuver, evade, or kill time?

[Khalil] Based on current conditions and previous discussions, I confidently believe that Rabin intends to reach a settlement. I believe so for a number of reasons. The most important, which he expressed, is that, initially, the West Bank and Israel could coexist under a type of Palestinian autonomy, in which Israel would not represent the controlling ruler or occupier. Camp David states that internal security would be among the authorities of an autonomy for the Palestinians, and this autonomy would be limited in the initial, temporary stage to the administration of all of their internal matters, especially their financial and economic conditions. The [subject of an] army and foreign representation would be deferred until the second stage.

[al-Sa'id] Who would retain sovereignty?

[Khalil] The topic of sovereignty is deferred until the second stage. As for the topic of security, it is basic and can be agreed. We have negotiated regarding it. I do not wish here to propose solutions. However, I maintain that, if the Palestinians were interested in what was proposed previously, let them return to the Camp David negotiations. In general, I believe that it would be extremely easy for the two parties to find solutions regarding security. The previous proposal called for cooperation through a joint committee comprising Palestinians and Israelis to monitor security. This committee would not be concerned with external security to confront external threats to Israel. Rather, it would be concerned with individual acts that occur daily. This subject is very sensitive for Israelis. Hamas has doubtlessly been behind the flare-up of the security situation in the interior. Hamas continues to reject negotiations and is inciting Palestinian public opinion. However, if the Palestinians emphasize their commitment to peace, they would consequently be able to reach an agreement, and Hamas' resistance would disappear.

Rank-and-File Palestinians

[al-Sa'id] However, it is said that rank-and-file Palestinians in the occupied lands support Hamas.

[Khalil] I do not believe this. Hamas, just like [other] intransigent groups, is a minority, and its propaganda is great in proportion to its size. Hence, the path of intransigence, which it has adopted and does not provide negotiations as a way to a solution, is not viable, because no other formula except negotiations can be found to solve the problem. Violence leads nowhere. Moreover, going to war against Israel today cannot even be considered. No state is willing to enter into a war to liberate the

West Bank and Gaza. Therefore, the situation facing us is that they [i.e., the Palestinians] still have an opportunity to achieve autonomy leading to another stage, namely the determination of the final status [of the occupied lands] in the future. Their interest dictates taking this path and taking the initiative in negotiations with the Israeli side.

[al-Sa'id] America's continuous support of Israel does not encourage Israel to display flexibility in negotiations. Rather, it encourages it to be more obstinate and to cling to its positions. One fears that this will be reflected in the course of the current talks, which America hopes will be ongoing.

[Khalil] I believe that when we look at the situation in the region, we must not separate it from the series of events in the world that began with the break-up of the Soviet Union. That event affected the U.S.-Israeli strategic relation, because America had [until then] relied on Israel as a last resort to prevent communism from spreading in the Arab countries. The future will be determined by the course taken by America. That course, which has not changed since Bush's call to the parties at Madrid, is to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict according to Resolution 242 and Resolution 338, and according to multilateral discussions to establish a common Middle East market, which will include Israel, Egypt, the Arab countries, and Turkey. America is not aligned with Israel to the extent of which you speak. The U.S. goal is the obtainment of an agreement that satisfies the parties. Today, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan will agree. The only problem pertains to the Palestinians. The other issue is that the future situation will not be limited to bilateral talks, but will extend to the more important multilateral discussions, meaning that Israel must be included as a state accepted by the Arab states and be on an equal footing with any state in the region.

America's Alignment

[al-Sa'id] Won't America want Israel to have sovereignty and control over the regional common market?

[Khalil] It will not have sovereignty. We have solutions in hand. [Egypt] ratified an agreement with Israel. It was feared, among other things, that Israel would gain control of the Egyptian economy. Has this happened? We have ratified 26 normalization agreements with Israel. Nonetheless, Israel has no chance of gaining control. We must be able to develop ourselves and to adopt scientific methods and modern technology. These, I believe, are essential to life today. If we do not adopt them, we will lag behind. We must move to improve our economy. Second, I do not believe that America will line up with Israel against the Arabs in the negotiations. Rather, it will attempt to create a new Middle East market in which Israel is accepted by the Arab countries, and in which business is conducted with Israel in a normal fashion.

[al-Sa'id] America is keen on Israel's qualitative military superiority in the region and wants to supply it with

technology, while we are completely out of the picture as far as technology is concerned.

[Khalil] Israel's links are not limited to America. Israel has links with research centers in many, many countries. Israel and its institutes have invited us to undertake joint activities. We are the ones who refused. Accordingly, we do not come later talking about the outlines of the future and where they will lead. The future says that the countries of the region cannot raise their standards of living when they are engaged in an arms race and attempting to produce weapons of mass destruction.

[al-Sa'id] Israel continues to be the only nuclear power [in the region] and a model for other states attempting to acquire a deterrent.

[Khalil] Israel maintains that it will initiate discussions with the countries in the region regarding this topic immediately after peace agreements are signed. Therefore, the topic will be open to discussion, and it will not be limited to weapons of mass destruction, but will extend to conventional weapons as well. We are on a new road to relations. If we do not seize this opportunity and mobilize it to our advantage, we will be the losers.

[al-Sa'id] America does not show deference to the influence of regional organizations, such as the Arab League. The decision to boycott Israel is an Arab League decision. Nonetheless, America is attempting to make inroads upon it, contacting countries individually and pressuring them to lift the boycott against Israel.

[Khalil] We ascribe to the Arab boycott dimensions that are larger than its actual dimensions. The boycott is not applied in practice. Companies circumvent it using very many methods. The parent company forms a subsidiary company registered in a country like the Cayman Islands, and it has a position through which it deals with the Arab countries. There are Arab countries that deal with companies on the boycott list. In the current situation, the boycott is symbolic for Israel, which is to say that Israel [wishes] not [to] feel that it or the companies that do business with it are excluded from doing business with the other Arab countries. Therefore, we find that the most inflexible Arab countries with respect to the boycott are those that are furthest from Israel, which do not enter into war with Israel, and whose only contribution is rhetorical or to give aid to the [Palestine Liberation] Organization. This inflexibility is superficial and unmatched by any practical toughness that dictates the actual boycotting of companies that do business with Israel. Therefore, the entire subject is symbolic and of no influence. I believe that the Arab countries—like Egypt, which ended the boycott—will neither lose nor gain anything by continuing the boycott.

And Syria

[al-Sa'id] America is pressuring Syria to provide details regarding the nature of the peace being proposed to Israel, based on the lack of precision of Resolution 242 regarding this point.

[Khalil] The basic difference is that Rabin, when he spoke about Syria, said that he would withdraw in the Golan and not from the Golan. He said: I will not state my final position on a withdrawal until Syria states its final position on peace. By that, he means peace in the sense of the Egyptian-Israeli peace, which is not limited to only the military-security aspect. This is a basic condition that will be negotiated before we enter into other details. What happened with Egypt is that the Sinai was divided into five regions from which Israel was to withdraw over a three-year period. At the time, when we discussed exchanging ambassadors, President Sadat said that this step would be taken after the withdrawal from al-'Arish, which was to be the first stage of the withdrawal. Six months after the Egyptian-Israeli agreement was signed, normalization agreements were formulated. Some of these agreements required the approval of the [two countries'] parliaments. What actually happened is that, during the six months, we entered into negotiations and arrived at normalization agreements, which were subsequently implemented. There is the opening of borders, which is being implemented based on an agreement between the interior ministry and many administrations, such as immigration, borders, and customs. Implementation takes time. Therefore, we have before us a number of matters—open borders, the exchange of ambassadors, and normalization. The opening of borders means that there is freedom of movement between the two sides.

If an Israeli withdrawal is linked to an exchange of ambassadors between Syria and Israel, as was done between Egypt and Israel, and if the withdrawal and exchange of ambassadors are implemented, there would be full peace, in the sense that a military-security agreement would have been effected first, Israel would have agreed to withdraw from the Golan in phases, and a guarantee of mutual security would have been agreed. Regarding Egypt, we agreed on the presence of multinational, not international, forces. At the time, we said that, if we approach the United Nations, it would not agree. Then, we ratified a separate, joint agreement with America. I undertook its ratification while I was in America at the time. We were of the opinion that the force should be multinational and that America should invite other countries to participate in it. However, circumstances have now changed.

[al-Sa'id] What then can be implemented with Syria?

[Khalil] A security agreement would guarantee the two states' security in a way agreed by the two parties. We agreed in a certain way. We cannot define their way. That should be left to the two parties' military experts.

[al-Sa'id] Would this require the formation of joint military committees?

[Khalil] Yes, the two parties would begin by agreeing on a withdrawal method and a method for guaranteeing security. This would be the first step. If a withdrawal occurs, it would be implemented in stages, so that each phase in the withdrawal would be linked with each phase

in the peace. The first stage [of the withdrawal] would be linked to an exchange of ambassadors, and so on, so that the peace would be more than mere talk.

[al-Sa'id] Would not the assurance made by Syria that it will not attack Israel suffice as proof of peace?

[Khalil] This only means an end to the state of war, according to what Israel said. It does not mean full peace. Full peace means the establishment of normal relations between the two states and the possibility of coordinating between a withdrawal and the development of relations between the two states.

[al-Sa'id] Could this entail the establishment of a demilitarized zone?

[Khalil] It could. An inspection zone could also be established. There are many matters that can be discussed and implemented.

Opposition Leader Reveals Iran's Involvement

93AF0557B Cairo *AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI* in Arabic
4 May 93 p 9

[Interview with Mohammad Sayyid (al-Muhaddithin), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the National Council for Iranian Resistance, by Dr. Sa'id (al-Lawandi) in Paris; date not given]

[Text] Mohammad Sayyid (al-Muhaddithin), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the National Council for Iranian Resistance, states that the Iranian regime's plan has recently focused on exporting extremism to Egypt. The regime believes that Egypt is receptive to Khomeyni's ideas. It is overpopulated, the most deeply rooted of the Arab countries historically, and is the primary center for the diffusion of culture of the Arab world. Therefore, the regime of the mullahs in Iran believes that controlling Egypt is the key to controlling the entire Middle East. To get at Egypt, the Iranian regime has set its sights on working with extremist forces in Egypt. It has also transformed Sudan into a jumping-off base to get into Egypt, using its Sudanese experience as a trial run.

After opening an office in Cairo to look after the interests of the mullahs's regime, Rafsanjani sent the Foreign Ministry element with the most experience and competence in this regard, Ali Asfar Mohammadi, on a mission to Cairo. Mohammadi worked for many years in the regime's embassy in Lebanon with groups dependent on the regime. He also participated actively in terrorist operations and hostage taking, and he played a special role in the formation of Hizballah.

While in Lebanon, he was also responsible for the "Islamist groups" in the Arab countries. He established extensive relations with all of these groups. Because of his progress in this area, the regime transferred him from Lebanon to the Foreign Ministry in Tehran, and appointed him chief of the Muslim Brothers Office in the

Foreign Ministry. The regime uses the term "Muslim brothers" to refer to all groups in the Arab countries which are called Islamist and extremist, not to a specific group.

After Ali Asfar Mohammadi achieved full control over the Islamist groups, which depend on the regime, he was sent to implement the regime's plan for these groups.

In a report to Rafsanjani, the Foreign Ministry said that, since about a year ago, the regime's employees in Egypt have had effective contact with tens of organizations and currents opposed to the Egyptian Government, all of which call for the toppling of the current Egyptian Government and the establishment of a Khomeyni-type government in Egypt.

[al-Lawandi] Muhammad Sayyid al-Muhaddithin continues:

[al-Muhaddithin] Another area of [Iranian] activity related to Egypt is in Sudan. The mullahs' regime is now using Sudanese territory to control Egypt. The al-Quds [Jerusalem] forces subordinate to the [Revolutionary] Guard have obtained particularly major gains in Sudan. They have transformed it into a training center for terrorists who are sent to countries in North Africa, especially Egypt. The bases belonging to the al-Quds forces in Sudan near the land border with Egypt have established an effective relationship with Egyptian extremists. Internal Iranian Foreign Ministry reports speak of Egyptians who are brought to these bases. After they receive theoretical and practical instruction, they are equipped with different types of weapons and sent into Egypt to carry out terrorist operations. The same reports speak of the "ground being suited politically and socially in Egypt to the acceptance of Khomeyni's ideas," and of the "need to quickly attempt operations in Egypt that are more organized to gradually achieve results and undermine the Egyptian regime."

This conspiratorial relationship between the Iranian regime and 'Umar al-Bashir's regime in Sudan goes back a number of years. In December 1991, Rafsanjani visited Sudan accompanied by [Ali] Fallahian[-Khuzestani], the intelligence chief [minister of intelligence and security]; Mohsen Rida'i [or Rezaei], the [Revolutionary] Guard Commander; Ali Akbar Tarakan [read: Torkan?], the defense minister; and more than 150 other persons. In a speech, which he gave in Khartoum, Rafsanjani declared that Sudan can play a more important role in planning the new international order.

During the visit, \$17 million in financial aid and \$300 million for weapons sent to Sudan at the Iranian regime's request were paid. Iran is also providing Sudan with 1 million tons of free oil each year.

After Rafsanjani's visit to Sudan, two Iranian ships arrived in Sudanese ports carrying oil, small arms, and artillery shells. Sometime later, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, Sudan's ruler, declared that Islamic laws would be implemented fully in the country. A first

order requiring women to wear the Islamic veil in public places was issued immediately.

U.S. sources confirm that the Khomeyni regime spent \$20 million to establish a fundamentalist center in Khartoum. It also sent units of the [Revolutionary] Guard forces under the heading of aid or the protection of Sudan. This is indicated by the fact that the Iranian charge d'affaires in Sudan, Majid Kamal, was also the charge d'affaires in Beirut in 1980 and played an effective role in establishing Hizballah. Another indication is a report in May 1992 that units of the Guard forces were operating in Sudan under the command of Guard Colonel Hosein Zadah.

The same sources confirm that, since May 1990, armed persons have been receiving training in ten camps established in Sudan in cooperation with Iran. In these camps, Egyptian, Algerian, and Tunisian extremists, and followers from the Gulf states are trained in sabotage operations.

Another basic point in this regard is that the volume of military and financial aid given by the Iranian regime to Sudan exceeds previous aid levels uncovered by American sources. One can point to 60-mm, 82-mm, and 120-mm shells; [T]-162 [medium] tanks, and BTR [armored personnel carrier] vehicles. The mullahs' regime has also recently agreed to provide other arms to Sudan valued at \$850 million, \$500 million of which will be a grant and the rest a five-year loan.

It is only natural that, in exchange for these large outlays, the regime sent its Guard forces and military experts to Sudan and established military bases there to train extremists from different countries, especially Egypt.

The Iranian regime is seeking a presence in Egypt, in a number of other Arab countries, e.g., Algeria, Tunisia, in the Gulf states, and in other countries neighboring Sudan. More than 10 training bases subordinate to the Iranian regime are reportedly in Sudan.

[al-Lawandi] Muhammad Sayyid al-Muhaddithin is silent for a moment, then continues:

[al-Muhaddithin] I want to draw the attention of the Egyptian brothers to an important point regarding Egyptian-Iranian trade relations. Because of the positions taken recently by the Egyptian Government, especially by President Husni Mubarak, after the disclosure of the mullahs' role in disturbances in Egypt, which caused strong tension in Egyptian-Iranian relations, the mullahs' regime is now seeking a way out, because in no case does it want a break in relations with Egypt. On the contrary, it wants to maintain its foothold in Egypt. Therefore, the regime's leaders are thinking about stimulating their trade relations with Egypt as a channel and a new cover through which to maintain contact with forces inside Egypt, which are subordinate to them.

[al-Lawandi] Muhammad Sayyid al-Muhaddithin concludes by pointing to a proposal he is submitting to all

Islamic countries that would require Iran's expulsion from the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. Regarding the reasons for that, he states:

[al-Muhaddithin] This proposal represents the most appropriate, realistic, and decisive attitude, which the Islamic countries can take vis-a-vis this Islamic regime. That regime has demonstrated to all its betrayal of Islam and Islam's liberal values. It has perpetrated thousands of crimes in the name of Islam, and it has distorted this true religion.

It is striving to export terrorism and extremism to the neighboring countries. The scope of its terror extends to taking hostages, planting explosives, and assassinating opponents.

Its practices are in complete contradiction to the Islam represented in the ICO. All Islamic countries suffer from this regime's affronts to Islam. The least one could do would be to neutralize the glamour of the Khomeyni regime by depriving it of its special weapon of sectarian and religious deceit, expelling it from the ICO, and replacing it with the legitimate representative of the Iranian people, namely the National Council for the Iranian Resistance.

I believe that this proposal is consistent with the courageous position taken by President Husni Mubarak last November, when he said, "Iran has no mandate over anyone. Nor does it possess the right to speak on behalf of Islam and its teachings. This [right] is entrusted to the entire Islamic nation and is above ethnic and sectarian feuds and plans to achieve domination, which are completely removed from the spirit, principles, and blue-prints of Islam."

The adoption of this proposal will no doubt be a major blow to the Iranian regime's deceit. It will remove the false mask of Islam from the regime's face and cause it to lose its attraction for the naive masses in the Islamic countries.

[al-Lawandi] In conclusion, Sayyid al-Muhaddithin emphasized that this recommendation is timely, because the mullahs' regime has not yet obtained a nuclear bomb and has been unable to create a state similar to it in the region. In addition, the Iranian resistance is now enjoying a large measure of domestic and international legitimacy. The Islamic countries, especially those suffering from the consequences and interference of the Iranian regime, must now place, on the ICO's agenda, this proposal to expel the Khomeyni regime from the ICO.

Commentary Blasts Former Interior Minister
93LD0012C Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 14 Apr 93 p 4

[Commentary by Mustafa Khalifah: "Curse of the Pharaohs and the Office of Interior Minister"]

[Text] When Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa was governor of Assyut, AL-NUR conducted a lengthy interview with him about applying the Islamic shari'ah, and the Islamic groups clashing with security forces. His words were pleasant, almost honey-like. He said: "Applying the Islamic shari'ah in Assyut is my first responsibility to God."

As for his evaluation of the Islamic groups' activities, he said: "I hold periodic meetings with my sons. We sit down and talk, because I think that the policy of dialogue is the only policy capable of arriving at a correct path, in order to bring points of view closer between these groups and the Ministry of Interior."

During Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Halim Musa's first term in the Ministry of Interior, he was kindhearted, soft-spoken, calm, and very modest. When he learned that certain officers were abusive and hit and provoked citizens, he issued his first order transferring some of them for investigations. He ordered others to be transferred to remote areas. He said: "I will make it so a citizen can enter a police station as though he was entering his own home."

During a reception for Sinai governorate officers in 'Abd-al-Halim Musa's first term in the ministry, he sat among the officers and troops and told them: "Do your duty toward your nation and your religion. Don't look down on the people and don't mistreat anyone, because God condemns oppression. Therefore, I advise you that I only want you to be fearful of God's wrath and punishment. We live to fulfill our duties completely. On Judgment Day, we will be asked about our actions, and woe unto us if we have been remiss in our duties." Here, therefore, are the words of the shaykh of the Arabs. On that day, the Egyptian people were delighted. They believed the statements he made, that his freedom was a conviction, that his ideas and thinking were liberated and, finally, that they could enter the police station as if it were their home. Instead of a severe beating inside the station, they would be able to drink tea. However, suddenly, the situation changed and the speech was altered. His excellency ascended to the throne of minister of Interior, sat on it, and turned his back. He became surrounded by the security clique and myrmidons. He became abusive and openly threatened to shoot anyone who let himself be seduced into looking—merely looking—at a policeman. That person's body would be riddled like a sieve, or, in another report, "I will make his body into a coarse sieve, with wider holes than a regular sieve." From that day, the shaykh of the Arabs' statements have been of that ilk—killings, crushings, expulsions, and arrests. The result was that conflict was ignited between the Islamic groups and security forces. The situation deteriorated, going from bad to worse. The people became frustrated, just as though they were the only people in the world to live in misery and abuse in both ancient and modern times. We have not seen a century in which the Egyptian people lived in honor and esteem. On the contrary, we have seen them abused and tormented, building the temples, palaces, and pyramids

for the eyes of the king and his wives and children, while they lived in huts. We have seen them digging canals and building dams with their teeth and fingernails, on their knees, being beaten, and dying to protect the khedive and his entourage, even in the modern era. The world demands human rights, as well as animal rights. The Egyptian people see the most basic of their rights to life and freedom being violated, and they cannot respond!

New Interior Minister Interviewed

93AF0557A Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 25 Apr 93
pp 16-18

[Interview with Major General Hasan Muhammad al-Alfi by Ahmad Mustafa, in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Is the new security man tough? Does he have a stern, severe expression and a booming voice. Does he carry a whip in his hand with which to lash the backs of some people?

Or is he a nice, lenient, yes man?

Or, is he neither tough nor lenient, but moderate?

What will he do with the extremists and terrorists who have recently become active in terrorist acts—including tossing explosives and charges—and in attempting to eliminate tourism to Egypt by attacking tourists, destroying the economy, harming Islam, and sullying Egypt's reputation among the countries of the world?

Last Sunday morning, the news of the dismissal of Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa from his position as interior minister, and the appointment of Major General Hasan al-Alfi, the governor of Asyut, to replace him was broadcast. I called the interior minister's office to ask whether the new minister had arrived at his office, so that I could arrange to be the first journalist to interview him.

I had learned from some of my sources that Maj. Gen. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa had received a telephone call on Sunday morning while at home from a spokesman who informed him of his dismissal and Hasan al-Alfi's appointment to replace him as interior minister.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa left his home and went by car to his office at the ministry, followed by his guards. There, he collected his papers and personal effects in preparation for returning home to an ordinary life.

At that time, Hasan al-Alfi, the new interior minister, was taking a legal oath. He had gone to the cabinet to meet with Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi. From there, he learned that Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa was still in his office collecting his papers. Hasan al-Alfi remained at the cabinet several hours, until he learned that his predecessor had left the office and went home in another Interior Ministry car. He then went to his office to assume the functions of interior minister.

The next day, Monday, was the holiday of Shamm al-Nisim [Egyptian spring festival and popular holiday on the Monday after Greek-Coptic Easter]. Nonetheless, I contacted Hasan al-Alfi at his home to confirm the time we had agreed to meet in his office after he took the legal oath. He confirmed the agreed upon time.

I went to his office on Monday morning of the Shamm al-Nisim holiday. The atmosphere was calm. There were no visitors or well-wishers, just several of the minister's assistants and the chiefs of agencies and departments subordinate to the Interior Ministry.

I sat with the new minister, whom I have known for many years, and congratulated him on his new position. We spoke at length about some of the hardships that he faced as governor of Asyut and who is behind these problems and crises. We also discussed the problems of the Interior Ministry and his daily, ongoing monitoring, and opinion of, current events.

Dialogue With the Terrorists

[Mustafa] What is your view about holding a dialogue with the imprisoned leaders of extremists and terrorists to prevail on them to instruct their supporters to end the killing and violence?

[al-Alfi] I would like to now declare to everyone, with complete candor, my opinion regarding this topic, which is: With whom would I hold a dialogue? Should I hold a dialogue with a group that: violates the law and Islamic law by killing and destroying; perpetrates criminal acts against state security; spreads chaos and panic; kills innocent Egyptians; and perpetrates acts against foreign tourists who come on their own volition as Egypt's guests to visit the tourist sites, enjoy the mighty Nile, and get to know the character of the good, noble Egyptian?

Does this idea of a dialogue, which has been on everybody's lips lately, mean that I should talk with a group of "deceivers and deviants," who claim to represent Islam, or who scream out lies and untruths to mislead youths?

Would it be reasonable for me to say to such deceivers among the terrorists and extremists, 'By God, never mind the violence and terrorism, come let us talk'?

Who would say such a thing or accept a group of terrorists having control? I would never oppose piety, because we are an Islamic state. But that does not mean that we will allow a group of terrorists to work corruption in the name of religion. They are harming Islam with their criminal acts, and they are attempting to destroy the Egyptian economy on the pretext of eliminating tourism, because they believe that it is forbidden!

As is well-known, Egypt brings in about 400,000 million Egyptian pounds from tourism each year. This income has helped substantially in [alleviating] much of the economic straits that Egypt is suffering.

Is it reasonable for violence, murder, and terrorist acts to confront a foreign tourist who pays thousands of dollars

to come to Egypt out of a desire to see Egypt's landmarks and become acquainted with our great history?

We Must Pay Attention to Our Youths

[Mustafa] The new interior minister continues:

[al-Alfi] To confront terrorism, terrorists, and extremist ideas, all intellectuals, clerics, writers, journalists, different media agencies in Egypt, educators, youth organizations, and others must mount intensive, ongoing activities or campaigns to raise awareness in all cities, villages, and hamlets in Upper and Lower Egypt, and to make youths understand their duty toward their country and its citizens and the need to steer clear of deceivers espousing deviant ideas.

I especially call on writers, authors, and producers of plays, series, and films to make allowances for the circumstances that Egypt is experiencing and avoid going to lengths to highlight anything that might damage Egypt's reputation or put youths on the wrong track.

I also call on every official—from village mayors to governors and others—to set a good example for our diversified citizenry and to always strive to provide absolute justice to everyone, so that each citizen will feel that he is living in his country, and not in a class society in which people are alienated from each other.

Violence and Rewards for Citizens

[Mustafa] What is your opinion about giving a monetary reward of 5,000 Egyptian pounds to each citizen who informs the police about a terrorist?

[al-Alfi] The state certainly encourages anyone who performs a positive, extraordinary deed, or a deed that is beneficial or leads to the detection or curbing of events posing a danger to society or state security. Such arrangements are customary in almost every country. However, the danger in this is that these matters [i.e., disclosures of alleged illegal acts] are publicized extensively in the newspapers and other media. This would be a double-edged sword, which many people would exploit to cause damage to others [by accusing them, perhaps falsely].

[Mustafa] Do you believe in a policy of confronting violence with violence?

[al-Alfi] My opinion on this subject, and I declare it with complete candor one hour after taking a seat at the Interior Ministry, is that any violation of the law must be confronted forcefully. A very important point to be clarified is that violence is absolutely a mistake without exception, meaning that security personnel [must] not randomly fire a volley of shots from automatic rifles or other weapons against innocent people to arrest one person or a small group of terrorists.

I believe that every citizen living in Egypt must feel that he is governed by the law, and that the law does not discriminate between one citizen and another.

The plan, principle, and program based on which I will proceed in the Interior Ministry is to confront any violator of the law by uncovering his methods and deviance, provided that this measure not be applied to all citizens incessantly and to no end, until there would be no single negative citizen or citizen opposed to his homeland.

I will continue to be a friend to every honorable citizen who loves his country and works on its behalf. I will not change. Nor will I ever change my convictions, principles, or behavior with the people.

Eliminating Terrorism

[Mustafa] After serving three years and one month as governor of Asyut, what is your opinion on the terrorists taking revenge on the police, as they have declared they will do in Upper Egypt?

[al-Alfi] As I said, such acts would be a major mistake, in the sense that the confrontation is only with those who violate the law. As for other citizens, they are all my parents, brothers, sisters, and children.

[Mustafa] Can terrorism and terrorists be eliminated conclusively? How long would it take to do so?

[al-Alfi] Terrorism and terrorists, I believe, can certainly be eliminated conclusively through the full, comprehensive religious education of citizens. We also need to achieve development, improve services for all citizens, provide a good example, and achieve universal justice for all citizens without discrimination, because the people are first and foremost citizens. If all of this can be done, it will be very easy to combat and finally eliminate terrorism and terrorists, because there are corrupt, deviant elements lacking virtue, who exploit unemployment to turn some youths against their country's interest.

[Mustafa] Do you believe in a policy of dialogue and reconciliation with the terrorists or extremists?

[al-Alfi] How could I conduct a dialogue or reconciliation with a person who violates the law. It is absolutely impossible to conduct a dialogue with persons who break the law. I need only say 'break the law,' which means anything illegal. If there were an intellectual discussion on a topic related to religion or Islam, the clerics of noble al-Azhar and other specialists among the ulema would certainly be responsible for conducting it.

[Mustafa] Speaking now as an Egyptian citizen, not the interior minister, were you satisfied with the security [agencies'] method for countering terrorism or terrorists in the past?

[al-Alfi] (The minister smiles and then laughs heartily as he shakes his head and says) I believe that everything that I have said answers your question.

[Mustafa] What would you, Hasan al-Alfi, the new interior minister, like to say to the citizens?

[al-Alfi] I want to say to every citizen: The policeman, regardless of his rank, is first of all an Egyptian citizen whose mission is to provide stability. He protects and serves without discrimination. All citizens must cooperate with the police in countering terrorism. Otherwise, any citizen would consider the policeman an adversary or enemy.

The door to my office is always open to any citizen and police officer wishing to meet with me.

[Mustafa] Egyptians in Egypt, the Arab world, and abroad want to know something about your personality. Who is Hasan al-Alfi?

[al-Alfi] Since I was a small lad, my role model has been our master 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab [Caliph from 634-644], may God the exalted be pleased with him. 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab is known for his resoluteness, decisiveness, and strength for the sake of the truth and standing with the weak so that they can obtain their due from the strong. He is also known for his mercy, justice, and investiture of proper, pure leaders to further the people's affairs.

[Mustafa] Citizens or police officers who do not know you wish to know from you whether you are a strict man, or do you have a smiling face?

[al-Alfi] I believe completely in what God the exalted and sublime says in the noble Koran, "Thus have we made of you an Ummah [nation] justly balanced" [Koran, 2:143]. I am neither stern nor silly. I also believe in the proverb which says, 'do not be so flexible as to be squeezed, nor so rigid as to be broken.'

[Mustafa] Does the interior minister's chair change the behavior and morals of whoever sits in it?

[al-Alfi] With all truthfulness and honesty, I am not a man who changes, nor is my behavior changed by sitting in a chair. The material world is ephemeral. The most important thing in life is for an individual to have a good connection with God the sublime and exalted, to abide by his conscience, and to call himself to account daily before going asleep.

[Mustafa] Shortly after my meeting with him, the phone began to ring, people who had learned that the minister was in his office over the holiday came to make inquiries, and aids and assistants with whom the minister had asked to meet were arriving to discuss work methods.

[box, p 17]

Brief biographical Sketch of the New Interior Minister

- Major General Hasan al-Alfi
- Born on 11 March 1926
- Graduated from the Police College in 1957
- Obtained a law degree from 'Ayn Shams University
- Obtained a degree from the U.S. (Federal Bureau of Investigation Academy) in administration and the use of modern crime detection means

- Served as the director of the General Tax and Fee Evasion Investigations Department. During his tenure in this position, he investigated many tax evasion cases, including a case that had major repercussions.
- Served as governor of Asyut for three years and one month
- Married with three children, a son who is a freelance engineer, a son who is a diplomat in the Foreign Ministry, and a daughter in secondary school

[box, p 18]

Reasons for the Dismissal of the Previous Interior Minister

I have learned that the dismissal of former Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa is attributed to a statement he made, which was published in the newspapers, in which he declared his resolve to hold a dialogue with imprisoned extremist and terrorist leaders, so that the latter would mediate an end to the terrorist acts of terrorists not known to the security agencies, in exchange for the release of imprisoned terrorist leaders.

The previous minister also announced that the Interior Ministry would pay 5,000 Egyptian pounds as a reward to any citizen who informed the ministry of any terrorist. This action weakened the position of the Interior Ministry and its various security agencies in the view of public opinion and the terrorists. Then, there was the random opening of fire and killing of several innocent persons during a raid against the hideouts of several terrorists.

[box, p 18]

Personnel Changes in Top Police Positions

New Interior Minister Hasan Muhammad al-Alfi explained that, while serving as governor of Asyut, he monitored all events in the arena and security in Egypt in his capacity as a security professional. He is therefore fully knowledgeable regarding the Interior Ministry.

I have learned that the minister will implement transfers and changes among police leaders in many locations in preparation for the dismissal of some of them from service in the coming round of police personnel transfers scheduled for July 1993.

'Crisis' Between Arab, Egyptian Lawyers Syndicates

93LD0010B Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic
5 Apr 93 p 8

[Article by Usamah Salamah: "Union of Arab Lawyers Threatens To Suspend Egypt's Membership Because of Muslim Brotherhood"]

[Text] The crisis between the Union of Arab Lawyers and the Syndicate of Egyptian Lawyers has revived as the

time approaches to hold the meeting of the union's permanent bureau and its annual conference, scheduled for the end of next month in Morocco. This is because the Egyptian syndicate has not paid its subscription to the union after a decision by the Muslim Brotherhood, which dominates the syndicate, to suspend financial relations with the union. This deprives the syndicate's members of participation in the conference and all union activities.

Three weeks ago, the union sent letters to all Arab syndicates, including Egypt's, telling them to hurry to pay the annual subscription as well as the subscriptions of lawyers desiring to attend the conference before 5 May. The syndicate has not yet replied to the union, thereby jeopardizing participation by Egyptian lawyers in the conference.

In a related matter, Faruq Abu-'Isa, the union's general secretary, has prepared a full dossier on the reasons for the dispute between the union and the Egyptian syndicate for submission to the permanent bureau for a binding decision in the matter. 'Isa accuses the Egyptian syndicate of insulting the union.

The union's permanent bureau is expected to issue a resolution suspending Egypt's membership unless the Egyptian syndicate retreats from its position on the union and paying its financial obligations. If the resolution is issued, Egypt will lose its good standing in the union and its seats on the bureau staff, where Ahmad al-Khawajah, the head of the Egyptian lawyers, holds the position of president of the union under the statute that provides that the head of the Egyptian lawyers shall be president. Also lost will be the seat of the assistant general secretary, held by Sabri Mubdi, and the post of treasurer, held by Muhammad 'Ulwan. The headquarters of the union will probably be moved to another country, particularly as lawyers from the Arab Maghreb countries are inclined to amend the union's statute.

Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, the well-known Muslim Brotherhood leader who holds the post of general secretary of the Egyptian Lawyers' Syndicate, has threatened the Union of Arab Lawyers, saying that the union must keep away from Egypt's syndicate and not ask it for anything. Also, the Egyptian syndicate's board members who belong to the Brotherhood are conducting a savage campaign against the union, which they have accused of draining off the funds of Egyptian lawyers.

It should be mentioned that the financial obligations of the Egyptian syndicate, according to a report issued by the union, are much lower than those of the other Arab syndicates. The union's statutes provide that at least \$1 shall be paid for each lawyer registered on the rolls of each syndicate. Egypt pays only 30,000 Egyptian pounds, although more than 130,000 lawyers are registered on the rolls of its syndicate. Jordan pays \$5 for each lawyer; Kuwait pays \$25, and Bahrain pays \$15.

U.S. Firm Hired To Promote Tourism

93LD0012E Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 12 Apr 93 p 1

[Article: \$2 Million To Advertise Tourism in Egypt"]

[Text] The government has signed a contract with the American public relations firm, Tyler Brothers, to conduct intensive tourist advertising campaigns for Egypt, beginning this month and lasting for six months. This is an attempt to regain Egypt's tourist posture, after its shakeup because of the recent terrorist incidents. The American firm, considered to be one of the largest advertising and public relations firms in America, has begun to implement the contract. It includes the production of three films, which will embrace the tourist places and attractions, and the most important areas of antiquity. In addition, there will be a 30-second film to be aired four times a day on international networks. The advertising campaign will concentrate on the United States and five European nations—England, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain, in addition, to the United Arab Emirates. The contract is valued at \$2 million.

Saudis Invest in Tourist Sector

93LD0012F Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 5

[Article by Sa'id Jamal-al-Din: "Despite Terrorist Incidents, Saudis Invest Funds in Tourist Projects"]

[Text] Despite all attempts by terrorists to damage Egypt's international tourism, which have been in vain, we find that Saudi investors have recently noted the excellence of tourism investments in Egypt.

The most recent investment is the establishment of the Arab Tourism Company, an Egyptian corporation with capital of \$6.1 million, operating in the field of tourism investment in Egypt. The company has decided to build a tourist village, called Qazzaz Beach. This village will include 120 detached hotel wings, using a system of chalets. The area of one wing totals 40 square meters. The village will also include three VIP villas, with an area of 500 square meters per villa. A villa contains four bedrooms and a reception area. The village will contain full services, including a restaurant, a cafeteria, two swimming pools, a diving center, a sports center for maritime activities, horseback riding, and bazaars for rent. A group of Saudi businessmen have participated in capitalizing the village, including Shaykh Salih Sulayman, Shaykh 'Adnan Fawzi 'Abid Qazzaz, and Shaykh Sa'd Rashid 'Abdallah al-Rashid.

A second project involves the recently established Saudi International Tourism Company. It has decided to build a three-star, year-round, international tourist complex on an area of 20 feddans along the Bitter Lakes in the Abu Sultan area of the Ismailia Governorate. The complex will include two areas. One will be a public area, containing 135 chalets and hotel apartments, each with an area of 100 square meters, 15 shops of 50 square meters each, a 350-square meter restaurant, a swimming

pool, and a cafeteria with 450 square meters of space. In addition, there will be four playing areas for tennis, and two fields for volleyball, basketball, racket ball, croquet, and squash. There will also be a health club, green areas, and children's parks.

The other area will be private, containing 90 two-story villas with areas of 90 square meters each. Each will have a private beach and a 235-square meter garden. In addition, there will be 180 chalets and apartments, each with 100 square meters of floor space. The private area units are for sale. The project's investments costs total 20 million Egyptian pounds. Mrs. Khadijah 'Arabi, who is of Egyptian nationality, has a 35.49-percent share in the company's capital. The Saudi investors, Khalid Muhammad Ibn Ladin, Muna Muhammad Ibn Ladin, and 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad Ibn Ladin, have a 64.51 percent share.

Bank Governor on Islamic Banking Successes

93LD0011D Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 14 Apr 93 p 2

[Article: "Interview with Ahmad Zindu, Governor of Faysal Islamic Bank; date and place not given"]

[Text] Within context of the economic reform and liberalization policy embraced by the government currently to enhance the participation of individuals, the private sector, and investors in implementing the economic and social development projects in this important phase; on occasion of the fact that the bank has, as usual, participated, along with its companies and clients, with an immense pavilion at the Cairo International Fair, which opened on 10 April 1993; on occasion of the recent conclusion of a contract for construction of the first phase of an enormous tower, which will carry the name of the Egyptian Faysal Islamic Bank [EFIB] and will be a new prominent landmark of development in the Greater Cairo, we have conducted this interview with Ahmad Zindu, a prominent economist and EFIB governor. The governor has told us about the bank's great activity and its gigantic projects in the various production and service fields and sectors, in housing and construction, as well as other projects that are set up and financed by the bank with means permitted by the shari'ah.

The interview also touched on the other aspect in which the Islamic Bank is interested, namely the social aspect. EFIB is a first pioneer among Egyptian investment banks in applying the alms tax to the bank's assets and in disbursing the revenues from alms to legal aspects through the bank's Alms Fund.

In this interview, we addressed a number of questions to the governor on EFIB and on other Islamic banks. The esteemed governor offered the following clarifications:

[AL-AHRAR] What are the characteristics that distinguish Islamic banks' activities?

[Zindu] There are three characteristics that we can sum up in the following:

First, they do not deal in debit or credit interest because all transactions and activities by an Islamic bank must be channeled toward real investment in the various economic sectors, including industrial, agricultural, and service sectors, such as housing, medical services, and so forth. All this is done in accordance with dictates of the basic rules of the Islamic shari'ah, especially rules connected with the prohibition of usury.

Second, Islamic banks pay the alms tax dictated by the shari'ah for their capital and their profits before dividends are disbursed to shareholders. The alms tax is part of the cost of making a profit. This tax is paid on top of other taxes, which are established by the law and are paid by banks to the state's public treasury.

Third, Islamic banks adhere to observing the conditions established by the currency and banking authorities, i.e., the Central Bank of Egypt.

Moreover, Islamic banks are characterized by being development banks that seek to channel money available to them toward economic development projects after ascertaining the economic and social feasibility of such projects from the perspective of the banks and of society.

[AL-AHRAR] The bank, some companies that it has founded, some companies to whose foundation it has contributed, and other companies that it has financed participated in the Cairo International Fair last year and the year before. Will the bank continue its march by participating in this fair this year?

[Zindu] With thanks to God and with success from Him, we have been able to present the bank's activities and the services it offers its esteemed clients through our participation in the past two years. We obtained a certificate of merit for the distinguished role performed by the bank and its companies and by the companies and corporations financed by the bank to serve the national economy.

This year, more than 40 of these companies will participate and will present their varied products in the various fields of industry, agriculture, drugs, construction, housing, engineering, and other fields. Some of these companies have already begun to export their products to Arab, African, and European countries. We have apologized to some companies for not letting them participate this year because of the large number of applicants and of [the limited] area reserved for display. We will try in coming years, God willing, to absorb all those who wish to participate through the bank's general marketing department.

[AL-AHRAR] What about the bank's latest projects and about the statement you made recently on the construction of a tower that carries the name of EFIB?

[Zindu] Thanks be to God and with success from God, we concluded nearly two months ago a contract with

major international construction companies to build the tower in one of Cairo's most exclusive sections, i.e., across from the Cairo Sheraton Hotel in al-Duqqi. This tower is one of the bank's latest projects and its construction is a continuation of the bank's march. Throughout the 14 years of its life, EFIB has founded and contributed to founding 35 companies and projects that operate in the various production fields, including industry, commerce, drugs, services, and other areas.

[AL-AHRAR] Will you invite the public to subscribe to financing the project?

[Zindu] God willing, the bank will announce shortly the issuance of religiously legal three-year silent partnership bonds to implement the project. According to studies conducted in this regard, these bonds will yield to their owners profits equaling twice the capital when the project is completed.

[AL-AHRAR] Do Egyptians, both residents and expatriates, and Arab brothers have the right to acquire units in this tower?

[Zindu] Yes, the Egyptian and Arab citizen is entitled to acquire units in this major project. Priority will go to owners of the bonds that will be announced soon, as I have already noted. EFIB tower will thus become a source of pride for the bank and for all Egyptians in this vital region.

[AL-AHRAR] Islamic banks are distinguished from conventional banks by their interest in the social aspect. We would like your excellency to shed light on the role of EFIB in this important aspect.

[Zindu] EFIB devotes attention to the social aspect, in addition to its interest in the economic and investment aspect. This gives the bank a distinguished role and allows it to engage in nonconventional banking activity in order to revive the alms tax and to entrench the principle of social solidarity. These activities are focused in the Alms Fund, which is one of the main agencies and cultural features of EFIB, considering that it is the first Egyptian Islamic bank to adhere in all its transactions to the dictates of the magnanimous shari'ah, including the payment of the alms tax imposed by the shari'ah on the funds of shareholders. The people in charge of the bank exert utmost effort to develop the bank's resources year after year. But their efforts to channel these resources and to achieve the goal of delivering them to those who deserve them, and nobody else, exceed by far the efforts to develop the resources.

In light of the legitimate avenues through which the alms must flow, the bank's Alms Fund Committee is careful to establish a policy, which ensures the ideal utilization of alms money and to give priority in this policy to achieving social justice and solidarity in our Egyptian and Islamic society. The best example of this tendency is the bank's participation in the campaign to eliminate the traces of the earthquake and to assist its victims. EFIB provided a sum of 200,000 Egyptian pounds, which were

delivered to the minister of social insurance and social affairs, in addition to a quantity of clothing and blankets. Moreover, the bank rushed to contribute to building and furnishing three schools with a donation of one million Egyptian pounds.

The bank's Alms Tax Fund continues and carries on with its role in order to bolster health care and social development. It suffices to note here that the sum spent by the bank to date in this area is nearly 34 million Egyptian pounds, not to mention the charity interest-free loans that the bank provides in accordance with certain controls. The bank has also provided the opportunity to citizens to establish charitable investment accounts as a substitute to public endowments. The revenue of these accounts is spent for charitable aspects determined by the account owners.

[AL-AHRAR] It is no secret that the BCCI [Bank of Credit and Commerce International] problem has affected numerous local and international banks. What is the position of the EFIB on this issue?

[Zindu] The decision to freeze and suspend the BCCI's activity and to liquidate it has had a negative impact on the international banking climate generally and the Arab banking climate in particular because this bank has been considered an Arab bank operating at the international level. We have dealt with the BCCI, as numerous local, Arab, and international banks dealt with it. The main difference between our transactions with this bank and other banks' transactions with it is that we concluded a contract with BCCI as our agent to buy and sell nonprecious commodities in the world markets for the EFIB. Out of its responsibility to safeguard the EFIB's reputation and to serve its clients and out of its commitment to reimburse monies that EFIB entrusted to the BCCI to invest for depositors as an agent, the EFIB management has taken the legally and financially appropriate steps in this regard. This is why we can say, thanks to God and with success from Him, that we have overcome this issue and that the EFIB is moving forward with steady steps to accomplish its sublime message of proliferating and bolstering banking transactions based on the Islamic shari'ah.

[AL-AHRAR] Finally, we can ask: Has the EFIB succeeded in setting up projects and founding development companies?

[Zindu] Islamic banks are development corporations primarily, as I have already pointed out. Their Islamic commitment is measured by the degree of their contact with the development and production process. With God's grace and with success from Him, the EFIB has actually succeeded since it was founded and throughout the past 14 years in setting up dozens of successful projects, either by providing the necessary financing through the system of profit-sharing partnership, through silent partnership, or through other means of legal investment. It has also succeeded in founding

joint-stock companies in the form of long-term projects that contribute to the economic and social development of the country's citizens.

Out of the EFIB's eagerness to have its shareholders and clients familiarized with the nature of the joint-stock companies, their capital, activities, products, and services, we are prepared to arrange visits to the head offices of these companies in the Greater Cairo, in the 10 Ramadan City, in Ismailia, in the 6 October City, in al-Amiriyah, and in Alexandria so people will find out on the spot the true dimensions of their distinguished activities and production. Some of these companies' products are already exported to Arab and African countries and to some European countries.

Extremists Cause Billions in Budget Deficit

93AF0547A London *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* in Arabic
17 Apr 93 p 6

[Unattributed article: "The High Cost of One Year of Violence in Egypt: Security Response Alone Costs 1 Billion Dollars; 5 Million Unemployed in Tourism Sector"]

[Text] The Egyptian Government will have to bear the costs of its security response to extremist groups which, according to the most recent report from Egypt's Ministry of the Interior, has exceeded \$1 billion for one year only. In addition to these costs the tourist industry in Egypt has experienced losses.

The confrontation between Egypt's security agencies and extremist groups took on dangerous proportions, which were reflected in the tension that prevailed and, in turn, cast a heavy shadow on economic conditions.

The most recent report from the Ministry of Interior stated that the bill for the gory confrontations between security agencies and extremist groups for a little over one year exceeded \$1 billion. The ministry's report also stated that 98 violent incidents had occurred during the period between January 1992 and the middle of last March: 17 of those incidents, which were against tourists, caused the death of five persons, three foreigners and two Egyptians. The number of people who were injured in those incidents was 48: 27 foreigners and 21 Egyptians.

The report revealed that security agencies had mounted 350 operations against the extremists and had stormed their hideouts in Imbabah, 'Ayn Shams, Sanbu, Abu Tij, and al-Fayyum. As a result of these operations, which cost more than 200 million pounds, 38 policemen were attacked. Of these, 27 police officers and policemen were killed, and damages due to their families and amounting to 3,375,000 pounds were paid by the ministry. Thirty-five police officers and policemen were also wounded in those attacks.

An Arsenal of Weapons

The report stated that when security agencies raided the extremists' hideouts in all of Egypt's governorates, they managed to seize 1,075 automatic and semiautomatic guns, 145 pistols, 353 explosive devices, 125 defensive bombs, 45 offensive bombs, 8 antitank bombs, 53 hand grenades, and 30 tear-gas bombs. In addition, 40 wireless devices and 20 sacks filled with approximately 8,553 rounds of different kinds of ammunition were also seized. It is estimated that the cost of these various weapons is approximately 150 million pounds. Furthermore, security agencies also seized a stash of knives, chains, nails, daggers, and chemicals used in manufacturing explosives.

According to the Ministry of Interior's report, weapons prices in Egypt skyrocketed during the past period because extremist groups have been rushing to purchase and stockpile weapons. The price of a light machine gun rose from 2,500 pounds to 5,000 pounds; the price of an automatic rifle rose from 3,500 to 5,500 pounds; and the price of a semiautomatic rifle rose to 3,000 pounds.

Sources of Financing

A responsible security officer said that there can be only three sources of funds for these extremist terrorist groups' weapons and explosive materials. The first source is an outside source. It has become clear that Iran appropriates \$500 million in its annual budget to support extremist movements in the world. The security officer indicated that Egypt's share of that amount was \$70 million per year.

The people who are being pursued by the authorities and criminals who are fugitives, hiding from the authorities in the mountains between the governorates of Asyut and al-Minya, are the second source of weapons. Although the number of licensed weapons in the governorates of southern Egypt exceeds 45,000, including automatic and semiautomatic Indian, German, and old Russian guns as well as rifles and light machine guns, the number of unlicensed weapons seized during the raids mounted by security agencies to find such unlicensed weapons amounted to 18,000.

The security officer points out that some members of the extremist groups make a variety of claims and use the distorted ideas that these groups believe in to buy weapons from people. They can do that because the people of Upper Egypt, especially those who live in Asyut, make a point of carrying a weapon because they consider carrying weapons to be a sign of power, prestige, and wealth.

The security officer adds, "Inquiries conducted by the Ministry of Interior and the confessions of those who were arrested proved that these groups acquire the explosives mainly from the old minefields in Egypt's Western Sahara, near the area of al-'Alamayn in Alexandria, and also from the old minefields in some areas of Sinai and Suez. Highly experienced bedouins who are

thoroughly familiar with the terrain and the contours of the Egyptian desert help them acquire these explosives."

The security officer said, "The cost of one of the black briefcases used by the extremists in their terrorist operations is 10,000 pounds. That is because the cost of the explosive material used in those briefcases is high. The scientific name of this highly explosive chemical substance, which is used in quarries to cut and break up stones, is 'intranitrotlunin.' The only place in Egypt, which is authorized to manufacture this substance is the Abu Za'bal Factory for Military and Chemical Industries." He pointed out that the border areas between Sudan and Egypt were considered a significant route for smuggling weapons to these groups.

Security Preparations

The security officer revealed that the sophisticated security equipment and devices, which were imported to confront extremist groups, cost more than 150 million pounds. He said that raising the level of readiness among policemen in some of the governorates to the maximum level was costing the state more than half a million pounds every day. He made it clear that security arrangements made by the ministry cost more than 10 million pounds. These arrangements include securing vital installations, setting up close surveillance of mountain roads and passes through which weapons and perpetrators are brought in and out, and also setting up very close surveillance of the minefields, which are scattered all over the desert, and of workers in the quarries.

One of the extremist groups' leaders, who is now in an Egyptian prison, admitted that he was being paid \$300 a month during the period of his military training in Afghanistan. According to his confession he joined the ranks of the mujahedin and was trained by people who had managed to flee to Afghanistan after al-Sadat's assassination. They were people like Ayman al-Zawahiri and Muhammad al-Islambuli, the brother of Khalid al-Islambuli, al-Sadat's killer. This person confessed that he managed to find his way back into Egypt through the Sudanese border for the purpose of carrying out operations against tourists in Cairo, Aswan, and Luxor. He was living in Imbabah, a modest neighborhood whose high density population gave him refuge, and he opened a store that gave him the cover [he needed]. This was a reference to the fact that some members of the organization of which he was a member were stealing gold from shops where gold jewelry is sold for the purpose of contributing to foreign funding operations. These people managed to steal half a million pounds worth of gold.

Funding From Abroad

This imprisoned, extremist group leader revealed that the main source of funds for operations came from abroad. The funds were sent to personal accounts, which had been opened in investment banks in the names of wives and children. He also revealed that the costs of the operation, which he was carrying out when he was

arrested, amounted to \$100,000. According to one security source, extremist groups managed to raise 15 million pounds for their operations. All this money was raised supposedly to help build mosques.

Aside from the compromise to security, tourism headed the list of sectors, which suffered grave damage as a result of the destructive and deadly confrontations between extremist groups and security agencies. Although tourist industry officials were predicting a 35-percent increase in returns from tourism in the wake of last year's successful season, returns declined, falling to 50 percent of last year's \$3 billion returns. Furthermore, there were indirect losses, foremost among which was the unemployment of no less than 5 million workers in the tourist industry, and that caused losses of between \$200 and \$300 million. The most recent reports prepared by the Egyptian Authority for Promoting Tourism pointed out that there was a 35-percent drop in the total number of tourists during the first quarter of this year, compared to the same period last year. There was also a 26.1-percent drop in the number of "tourist nights," which amounted to 5,428,000 compared with 7,440,000 "tourist nights" last year.

The report made it clear that the decline in the number of American, British, and German tourists was so clear that most establishments that cater to tourists in Hurghada had shut down. Furthermore, no less than 20 shops that cater to tourists had closed. These shops relied on selling their products to German tourists who used to come to Hurghada.

The report revealed that there was a 37-percent drop in the number of Arab tourists, who represent 40 percent of the total number of tourists who visit Egypt, and a 45-percent drop in the number of their "tourist nights." At the same time the decline in the number of tourists from countries of the Economic Cooperation and Development Organization was no more than 10 percent, and the drop in the number of their "tourist nights" was 15.8 percent. Faced with such reductions Egypt's Ministry of Tourism found itself compelled to take some action. It entered recently into agreement with an international public relations firm that specializes in promoting tourism to repair what the extremist groups had destroyed and to rectify the image that Western tourists, particularly those coming from America, England, Germany, France, Spain, and Italy, have in their minds about security conditions in Egypt. The preliminary cost of this public relations campaign amounted to 20 million pounds.

But the bitter harvest of violence was not limited to the sphere of tourism. It reached beyond that sphere to that of investments, which had started to become animated in the wake of structural reforms in the Egyptian economy. Domestic trade was liberalized, and restrictions on the exchange rate and the interest rate were lifted. Under present conditions, however, most investors refrained from borrowing from banks and balked at involvement in new investment projects. That led to a

4-percent reduction in the interest rate for the Egyptian pound because the banks had an oversupply of liquid funds. That is why the Egyptian Government is stepping up the process of selling public institutions to the private sector, hoping that many people will borrow money from the banks to buy shares in these institutions, based on the assumption that their yield will be higher than the banks'. The Egyptian Government is taking this step out of fear that investors will turn to dollars, raising the rate of inflation, which the government had succeeded in reducing from 20 percent in 1991 to 9.7 percent last year.

In that regard investment rates by Arabs and foreigners declined recently. According to a report from the Council of Saudi Arabian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, 116 Saudi Arabian investors and businessmen announced during the first conference for Egyptian and Saudi businessmen, which was held last October, that they wanted to invest a total of approximately \$330 million.

And yet, the facts in reports by the General Egyptian Investment Authority indicate that while 30 percent of these projects had been implemented, certain measures pertaining to the remaining projects had not been taken for many reasons. The most prominent of these reasons was this: investors were waiting for the final outcome of the ongoing conflict between security agencies and extremist terrorist groups that are targeting the Egyptian economy deliberately with their blows.

Economic Damage

The Egyptian Federation of Chambers of Commerce noted conditions in Egypt's markets in one of its reports, which pointed out that these markets were going through a severe recession as a result of the decline in consumers' purchasing power. Consumers prefer holding on to their cash as a precaution against any unforeseen circumstances, given the wave of violence, which is being mounted everywhere by extremist groups and carried out by them indiscriminately.

The report stated that demand for durable electrical appliances fell 50 percent and demand for other goods fell at different rates. Demand for furniture fell 30 percent; for light fixtures and electrical appliances, 33 percent; for ready-to-wear clothing, 15 percent; and for shoes, 23 percent. Faced with the wave of high prices, which took hold over some basic goods like sugar, meat, wheat, and rice, the Egyptian Government made large amounts of these goods available in the market to bring down prices, which had doubled as a result of consumers' rush to buy and hoard these products. The government furnished the market with 20,000 tons of sugar, 12,000 heads of cattle, 500,000 tons of wheat, and 40,000 tons of rice. The report by the chambers of commerce made it clear that the curfew, which security agencies had imposed for the purpose of liquidating terrorist elements and eliminating their hideouts, had caused a 75-percent reduction in purchasing power in

the markets of the governorate of Asyut, which was the scene of the worst confrontations between security forces and terrorist groups.

Eighty Million Pounds Allocated for Halai'b Development

93AF0546B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Apr 93 p 4

[Unattributed article: "Egypt Allocates 80 Million Pounds for Hala'ib Development"]

[Text] Egypt's Ministry of Reconstruction and Housing allocated 80 million pounds for water, electrical, housing, and educational projects in the Hala'ib Triangle, the disputed area between Egypt and Sudan.

An official in Egypt's development agency said that the agency started implementing projects in that region whose area is approximately 180 km. The most important of these projects is building a two-way asphalt road linking that area with the governorates of Aswan and the Red Sea. Another important project is that of providing daily, regular transportation services to the area from Hurgada to Marsa 'Alam and then to Shalatin, Abu Ramad, and finally Hala'ib. This service would be provided by the Public Nile Bus Company for Upper Egypt.

The official said that an agreement had been reached with a maritime shipping company for using boats to transport drinking water from Safaja to Marsa 'Alam. From there water would be transported by trucks to the triangle area where 9,000 tons of water are transported every month at a cost of 50 pounds per ton.

Construction Company Records 31 Million Pound Loss

93AF0534C London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Apr 93 p 3

[Article by Sahar Fawzi]

[Text] The General Company for Engineering Works recorded a 31 million pound loss last year because of the cancellation of economic agreements with the former Soviet Union.

This company is considered one of the largest Egyptian companies that was dealing with the Soviet market as part of the 200 million pounds sterling protocol that was signed between Egypt and the former Soviet Union.

The company's general assembly recently discussed last year's losses; the company was previously posting profits, which amounted to 18 million pounds in 1990.

The company pinpointed the main reason for its losses as its 238 million Egyptian pound indebtedness to banks. This resulted from importing goods from Commonwealth republics, while having difficulty exporting Egyptian goods in return, and from the company's inability to obtain its accrued dues from the "Soviet Union."

Recession in the Egyptian market was also responsible for difficulties in the company's marketing of 5,000 agricultural tractors it had imported from Moscow for 30 million pounds sterling. In addition, the value of the pound sterling against the Egyptian pound increased after the transaction credits were opened.

A company official indicated that halting exports to the Commonwealth countries resulted in the export decline of 250 Egyptian factories that were exporting their products to these countries. He further declared that the company's board of directors discussed the possibility of reaching agreement with the credit banks to both reschedule loans at concessionary terms and transfer concessions to long-term loans with lower interest rates.

Awqaf Ministry Takes Control of Village Mosques

93LD0012B Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 14 Apr 93 p 1

[Article by Mahmud Rafi'i and 'Abd-al-Rashid Ahmad: "183 Village Mosques in al-Qalyubiyah and in al-Minya Seized by Awqaf"]

[Text] Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, the minister of Awqaf, has seized 130 private mosques in villages of the al-Qalyubiyah Governorate, especially the villages of Markaz Shabin al-Qanatir, Tukh, and al-Khanakah.

Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Barakat, a member of the Governorate's Advisory Council, stated that the minister authorized the money required to place these mosques under the minister of Awqaf, to pay off the workers and officials, and to furnish the mosques with soft carpets. In al-Minya, the minister of Awqaf seized 53 mosques in that governorate. In fact, it has already taken over most of them, and will take over the rest this week.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Sanusi, the director of Awqafs in al-Minya, made that statement.

These decisions are within the context of Awqaf's general policy, which is aimed at preventing Islamists from using their pulpits, by means of Awqaf's seizure of their mosques.

Ministry To Air Antiterrorism Cartoon Film

93LD0011B Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 12 Apr 93 p 52

[Article: "Antiterrorism Cartoon Film"]

[Text] The Ministry of Culture has decided to show "All for One," a cartoon film, at all movie theaters controlled by the government after the movie newsreel and before the main feature. Moreover, the ministry is considering the possibility of showing the cartoon film periodically on the various television channels.

"All for One" is the first antiterrorism cartoon film. It revolves around the idea of Muslims and Christians

united in confronting terrorism. The Cultural Development Fund has produced the film at a cost of 15,000 pounds. The story and scenario is by 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Sayyid, the montage by Muhammad Hashim, the production by Ahmad Shihatah, and the musical score by Hani Shinudah.

Thousands Celebrate Opening of Bombed Cafe

93LD0011A Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic
12 Apr 93 p 17

[Article: "In Reopening Wadi al-Nil Cafe, First Popular Celebration To Resist Terrorism"]

[Text] Last Thursday evening, Egypt had an appointment with resistance to terrorism. Thousands of people came out for the first time ever in a great act of resistance to terrorism at the center of al-Tahrir Square on the occasion of the reopening of Wadi al-Nil Cafe, which had been devastated by terrorists last Ramadan.

Thousands of people began arriving at al-Tahrir Square as of 1600 until 2100, thus turning the place into an arena for confronting terrorism with song, music, speeches, and dozens of rose bouquets and signs expressing opposition to radical attempts seeking to sabotage and destroy Egypt. The place was also spacious enough to accommodate intellectuals, artists, and men of letters. Aminah al-Sa'id, a prominent lady writer, participated with an antiterrorism address in which she urged the Egyptian people to confront terrorism. 'Adil Imam, a [big-]star actor, was foremost among those given a magnificent reception by the masses who chanted against terrorism. 'Adil Imam delivered an address in which he denounced the killers of children and the supporters of darkness. Behind him, thousands of people sang the anthem "My Country, O My Country," which is the same anthem the masses chanted with Husayn Fahmi, 'Ammar al-Shari'i, Mahmud al-Jundi, Muhammad Nuh, and the 'Ali Kubana band. The celebration was also attended by so many writers and men of letters from various generations that it is difficult to list their names. Meanwhile, party figures were absent, excluding 'Abd-al-Ahad Jamal-al-Din and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mustafa from the National Party and Ahmad Mujahid Shawqi and Shawqi Khalid from the Socialist Labor Party. The absence of the Grouping, al-Wafd, Nasirite, and Liberal parties has given rise to questions about these parties' understanding of their role in popular participation against terrorism. Dozens of Western radio and television stations and of international news agencies attended the celebration and transmitted it to their countries and broadcast there. This confirms that the West's interest in fighting terrorism is no less than its interest in terrorism itself. This celebration, which was transmitted to various parts of the world by radio and television, was the best propaganda for Egypt and it exceeded in value official efforts that cost millions of dollars spent on paid advertising. This is another living proof that keeping the door

open to the masses to express their opinions and positions against terrorism is more positive and important than just relying on the official and security role.

The security agencies' observation of the celebration was confined to ensuring external security without intervention by the police. The task of organization was shouldered by the celebration organizers solely, i.e., the group of magnificent and energetic young people who came up with the celebration idea and who gathered for it patriotic elements from various tendencies and institutions.

Many people made their donations, some by restoring and rebuilding the cafe and others by supplying it with new utensils. Moreover, the materials for the celebration, such as a big tent, loudspeakers, and chairs, were all donated by citizens, businessmen, and artists only.

The celebration to mark reopening of the Wadi al-Nil Cafe was tantamount to reopening the people's role in confronting terrorism—a role that from now on must not remain faint and sporadic.

Islamic Programming Curtailed To Counter Extremism

93LD0012A Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 14 Apr 93 p 1

[Article: "Thus, They Oppose Terrorism on Radio and Television"]

[Text] Officials in the Federation of Radio and Television have decided to reduce the volume of religious programming that is broadcast or transmitted over short wave, as well as to determine the type of programming. Therefore, the Holy Koran Broadcast has stopped performing its function of offering the distinguished programming that aims at linking religion with world and community events. This new "tyrannical" edict was issued by Amin Basyuni, the chief of the Federation of Radio and Television, one in his series of comparably random decisions. He previously issued instructions to reject all religious programming supplied to television and Egypt's masses, that had been taped from the television programming of sister and friendly Islamic nations. He also demanded that a special committee be formed to supervise religious programming, scheduled to be broadcast. He drew up specific regulations to select the members of this committee. A responsible source in the Federation of Radio and Television told AL-NUR that the volume of religious programming is constantly decreasing year after year, as opposed to a curious increase in volume of entertainment.

It is worth noting that these edicts were prepared to complement the strangest decision of all, issued by Safwat al-Sharif, the minister of information, which canceled 12 religious enlightenment and educational programs. This trend is considered very strange, a new creation of regulations for the government's seizure of visual and audio media, in order to offer religious material of a special nature to counter recent terrorism and extremism.

Islamic Law Seen as 'Solution' to Terrorism

93LD0012D Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 14 Apr 93 p 3

[Article by Majdi Zallam: "Applying Shari'ah—Solution to Cases of Terrorism"]

[Text] In this century, man-made systems have become inappropriate and do not serve the needs of the people. Moreover, they clash with human nature, which God has given people. Therefore, we saw communism collapse after more than 70 years of abusing human rights. We have seen that capitalism in the Western world is unmindful of human values. From the near collapse of all man-made systems, the people will understand that the Islamic way is the best path for every time and place. It is compatible with the human nature that God gave to man. After all this, we may ask: Is the application of man-made laws in Egypt the reason for all the violence that is occurring from Islamic groups? Would the application of the Islamic shari'ah guarantee an end to these incidents?

Islam's Teachings

Dr. Sabri 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, professor of comparative religious law at al-Azhar University, says that the Islamic shari'ah is appropriate for any time and place, by which he meant that people, in their actions and words must govern and be governed by what God has prescribed. "These days, we see problems that threaten the nation's security, this problem is called terrorism and is represented by a group of violators of God's law, who are incompatible with every dimension of Islam and Islam's teachings. Terrorism only uses force that it thinks is required to enable it to attain its goals, but this is incompatible with Islam's teachings. If we call for the application of the shari'ah, this will bring security and safety to every person. However, at the same time, we want to make clear," and these are still Dr. Sabri's words, "that the Islamic shari'ah, as pertains to the penal code for example, stipulates specific conditions to punish the criminal. One of these stipulations is confession or evidence. Punishment cannot be used against the criminal without that. Therefore, the matter requires spreading the religious spirit and making people aware of religion's teachings, so that they will adhere to Islam's shari'ah, both outwardly and inwardly. Unless they are committed within themselves, we cannot apply the shari'ah outwardly. However, how can we work with a liar or with those who give false testimony who do harm to others, because of their testimony, in which they have not feared God. Therefore, we must demand two things:

1. Apply the Islamic shari'ah, because that will help solve many contemporary problems, led by the problems of violence.
2. Make the people aware of religion's teachings and implant belief in themselves, so that every person will be responsible for himself and the controller of himself. After that, we would not need false testimony, nor would we fear the lies of others, because the shari'ah—in all its

provisions—would guarantee security and safety and would make man his own keeper."

Sparing Bloodshed

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rashid Saqr stresses that applying the shari'ah would ensure sparing bloodshed, stopping civil strife, and healing the wounds. The explosions in the Islamic world are aimed at demanding the return of Islam to this society. If ruling systems were different from man-made laws and took refuge in God's shari'ah, explosions would not be heard and there would be no distress among persons.

Dr. Saqr added: "Accordingly, this time is most appropriate for the application of the shari'ah, because it would end all civil strife and prepare the climate for the spread of justice, the support of rights, and the dissemination of good. The road would be prepared for all the arguments of these Islamic groups."

Islam Oppressed

Dr. Mustafa al-Shak'ah, dean of the College of Ancient Arts in 'Ayn Shams University, says: "Islam is now being oppressed by non-Muslims and by the writings of certain non-Muslims. They are intentionally distorting the image of Islam. Therefore, the shari'ah should be applied. This would be best for Islam, in the sense that Islam could offer serenity and purity once again to Muslims and require them to be committed to its merciful spirit."

Dr. al-Shak'ah went on to say: "Islam does not cut off the hand of every thief, but it studies this thief's case. Did he steal to eat? Then, it takes into account the one who restricted his livelihood. The legal punishments that certain rulers fear with regard to applying the shari'ah are only those that they fear being applied to themselves. They fear that their hands will be cut off, not the hands of feeble thieves. If the masses of Muslims were aware of the justice, completeness, and fairness of the shari'ah, and that it is the ideal solution to reform society and eliminate violence, then all of them would call for it. In this event, those upon whom the legal punishments would fall would be fighting an evil war."

Concerning a suitable period of time for the application of the shari'ah, Dr. al-Shak'ah said: "That would be impossible before Islam gives the people its purity, cleanses them, and invests them with its merciful spirit, because the investiture would be through the media and, now, some of the media are owned by nonbelievers. Therefore, we must first purge the media of the blemishes that adhere to it, and of the ideas of certain announcers. After that, the application stage will arrive."

Dr. Hasan al-Shafi'i, professor of Islamic philosophy in Dar al-'Ulum College, added: "Applying the Islamic shari'ah would eliminate the problem of terrorism. However, it must be understood that applying the shari'ah is

not merely being committed to or implementing religious laws, which can be derived from the shari'ah, because that is just one aspect of the shari'ah.

"In fact, the shari'ah means all of what God prescribed for his worshippers and transmitted to the people. It is in the final message, which means the Koran and the Sunnah. It includes dogmatic aspects, upon which are based the oneness of God in all its meaning. Then comes belief in all the prophets and, finally, in resurrection and the hereafter. This is one aspect. Another one is the moral aspect that stems from Islam, values and ethics that are firmly embedded in the conscience of a Muslim and govern his conduct. Finally, there is the legal aspect, which is represented by applying the legal principles and punishments."

Dr. al-Shafi'i went on to say: "Whenever the shari'ah, with its comprehensive, true, and fundamental concept, is adopted to purify the souls of the people, and revive the meanings of allegiance to and trust in God, which is the essence of the creed, and provides virtue, faith, and purity, then—after that—the stage of commitment to the legal provisions will come to individuals and the community. They will govern fields of human conduct, whether material or spiritual. By this means, the climate will be prepared to apply the shari'ah and eliminate violence, committed in the name of applying the shari'ah and combatting denial."

"Violence stems from two things: either from indifference to the dignity and protection of the human soul; or, from a kind of severe hopelessness and frustration, which causes man to turn to violence. It may also stem from a corrupt, depraved climate, in which depravity and corruption are prevalent. If we can prepare the climate to restore Islam, in its merciful spirit, to the people and spread justice throughout society, then man will know the dignity of the human soul and not resort to crime. Then, there will be no violence."

"The problem lies in the fact that we, at times, do not insist that the shari'ah be applied, or we think that what exists is sufficient. This is where the danger lies. This is what provokes violence. The problem requires education, social guidance, and spiritual preparation. After that, the legal aspect will come, in terms of applying the Islamic legal punishments."

Dr. 'Ablah al-Kahlawi, a professor in al-Azhar University, stresses that what is happening now is a natural outgrowth of prisons and detention camps. It is provoking and stirring up Muslims' feelings. This is the fault of the present generation, which must apologize for it. This apology could find expression in the rulers attempting to devise general rules and fixed supports by which we could be guided, because we do not acknowledge that we have a color, or a taste, or even a system of rule.

Governor: No Spread of Terrorism in al-Minya
93LD0012G Cairo *AL-AHRAR* in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 4

[Article by Khalid Abu-Bakr: "Not One Extremist From al-Minya Took Part in Antitourism Incidents"]

[Text] Major General 'Abd-al-Hamid Badawi, the governor of al-Minya, said in an exclusive statement to *AL-AHRAR* that extremism has no opportunity to spread in al-Minya Governorate for several reasons. The first reason is the spread of religious awareness among the people of al-Minya, by means of a host of missionaries from al-Azhar and the ministry of Awqaf, who are refuting the views of extremists and clarifying matters of religion for the people.

"The Governorate of al-Minya is containing the hostile incidents that occurred between the Muslim and Christian, which the extremist uses as an opportunity to foment civil strife. Our role is to settle this hostile dispute before it escalates and can be exploited by 'certain' extremists. [We are] confronting the reasons that cause the youth to fall into the hands of extremism, including unemployment, under an agreement with the Social Fund To Provide Job Opportunities to Youth. As for ignorance, it is one cause of extremism. The governorate is conducting projects to wipe out illiteracy, in order to decrease the percentage of illiteracy in the governorate."

The governor of al-Minya concluded his statement, saying: "Extremism in al-Minya has not progressed into terrorism. Not one extremist from al-Minya took part in the recent incidents to cripple tourism in al-Minya."

'Men on the Street' Discuss Reaction to Terrorism
93LD0013A Cairo *AL-AHRAR* in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 3

[Article by Qutb al-Dawi: "'Men on the Street' Have Said Their Word on Terrorism"]

[Text] The terrorism phenomenon has become an international phenomenon existing in every part of the world. Terrorism, in all its forms and with all its goals, has become the world's main concern. There is political terrorism, terrorism emanating from moral dissolution, and religious terrorism. It is a blind, foolish, and destructive means whose objective is to strike institutions and to kill the innocent in order to shake confidence in the system and in government. The objective of premeditated violence, murder, and sabotage is to disseminate terror and fear and to shake the citizens' security and safety.

The terrorism phenomenon has imposed its force, evil, and corruption on the Egyptian and international society. Every country in the world suffers from one form of this aggression or another. These forms include aggression against other people's property, usurping other people's rights, and murder. What these actions seek to do is to turn Egypt into a dead corpse so those who perpetrate the actions can sit atop the seat of power.

to spread corruption in the land. Where are the sons of the one country so they will confront this accused danger with educated intellects, enlightened learning, the tolerant faith, and wisdom? God has instructed us to use these means to break the power of these evil, blood-thirsty, and mercenary murderers so the sun of our beloved Egypt may shine safely and securely.

On this phenomenon, the Egyptian "men on the street" have expressed the following viewpoint:

'Terrorism Is Alien'

Ahmad al-Shamma', an accountant, said, "By nature, the Egyptian citizen is good and peaceable. The radical and suspect intellectual tendencies to which he has been subjected have caused him to live in the country under deteriorating conditions. What sins have the victimized innocent citizens committed? Customs and traditions are still alive in the minds of the honorable Egyptians who belong to this country's soil. Of course, every citizen of sound mind and sound logic condemns the regrettable acts occurring at present because Islam is a religion of tolerance and humanism first and foremost."

"I advise young men to cling to the ethics and teachings of our orthodox religion, to turn to sports, to try to earn a living, and to seek self-fulfillment. I advise them to try to find work opportunities and not to put themselves on an endless path to an unknown fate."

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, a cafe worker, said, "It is evident that these childish actions emanate from a little band in society. This band's low level is evident and its members are creatures who belong to a lost Egyptian social class whose members have no ideas, no dreams, and no principles. Most of them try to exploit the situation to cause confusion and chaos and to soil Egypt's reputation before the international circles. All these actions come from people who are mentally deranged, malicious people, or ingrates who deny the good their country has done them."

And Sedition

Ashraf Najib al-Siba'i, a driver, said, "It is certain that behind all the sabotage acts perpetrated in Egypt there is an organization that seeks to destroy Egyptian youth. This organization's main objective is to sow sedition and to shake trust between the citizens. Else, why the sabotage, the killing, and the bloodshed? I personally like young men who strive. I got my academic degree and then proceeded to work as a driver to earn a living that helps me meet life's demands. There is no disgrace in this. Our country has enough riches for the entire world. But one has to strive. God has told us: 'Strive, and I will be with you.' If we listen to gossip, we will accomplish nothing. There is enough afflicting us. I also advise my generation not to emigrate because our country is in the direst need of our efforts and expertise. We owe it to our

country, which has sheltered us, to rise to its expectations. This cannot be accomplished with terror and murder which God, may He be praised and exalted, has proscribed."

Striking Tourism

'Abd-al-Tawwab Muhammad Mahmud, a laborer, said: "This phenomenon is intended to strike Egyptian tourism, which is tantamount to sabotaging the country. Islam doesn't promote such things. All we wish for our country is constant progress and prosperity. Police authorities must intensify their campaigns, especially their mobile patrols, to protect the citizens from these dissolute juveniles who know none of God's rights. I say honestly that all these rash actions are nothing but a tempest in a cup. Conditions will stabilize, safety will be restored to the Egyptian scene, and we will become the masters of nations."

Have Mercy on People

Hasan Ghanim, a cook, has stressed that terrorism is rejected in part and parcel in our life as Egyptians, adding: "Let me ask: What offense have these powerless citizens committed? Fear God and have mercy on those who live on earth so He who lives in heaven will have mercy on you. This dissolute band of people in Egyptian society are in the wrong. If they were right, then why wouldn't they confront officials face to face so there would be answers and solutions? Bullets solve no problems and reflect no principles. A man's character becomes known when a man is confronted. Frankly, no reason and no conscience accepts the current situation. A friend of mine who worked as a waiter at Wadi al-Nil Cafe was killed in the recent incidents. What crime did this poor man commit?"

Saboteurs

Ashraf Abu-al-Hadid Rabih, an ironer, said, "God has prohibited the unjustifiable taking of human life. God has said that if any one takes away a life unjustifiably it is as if he has taken the life of the whole people. Religion rejects terrorism and is innocent of all these actions and statements that are attributed to it. These saboteurs are trying to sabotage the Egyptian economy, to confuse the minds of young people, and to recruit them with false means intended to win over the largest number of young people so they will be captives of the saboteurs' rash actions."

"Therefore, I advise young people to embrace high ethics and to rush to report on these saboteurs when they try to approach them because the saboteurs are a faction that has strayed from the path and that seeks to tamper with the lives of peaceful people. It is my personal opinion that the saboteurs' objective is to strike Egyptian tourism now that it has flourished recently, and to do so by hurling grenades in public squares and roads and by killing and looting to create instability and insecurity, which is their main objective."

The Youth

Rashad al-Za'im, an engineer, has said, "We reject terrorist activities that pose a threat to the citizen's property and family. The Islamic shari'ah and divine religions denounce such activities strongly. I find it most likely that the main reason behind the proliferation of this phenomenon is the masked unemployment and the appointment of group after group of graduates with which cafes and streets are overflowing. It is easy to recruit these young people into terrorist groups that are financed by Iran and Sudan. I urge that ethnic blocs, especially the Sudanese who live in al-'Atabah and who number more than 2 million Sudanese citizens, be deported. I also urge that the Awqaf Ministry and al-Azhar and their clerics convene religious symposiums to confront the insane radicalism and the brainwashing employed by these groups in recruiting the largest number of recent graduates.

"I also urge the Awqaf Ministry to increase the number of religious elementary schools and venerable Koran-memorization schools to raise children with the sound principles of Islam!"

Terrorism and the Human Soul

Mahmud Fayid, an ex-Consultative Assembly member and secretary of the Specialized Education College in Ashmun, has said that the violence phenomenon is incompatible with the nature of a righteous human soul. Thus, it is certain that this phenomenon isn't natural to a society, whether domestic or foreign. Abroad, there are devious terrorist phenomena that assume various forms, such as ordinary criminal phenomena or devious personal phenomena that take a political character and the form of the so-called terrorism. The danger of these phenomena is in the presence of organizations that direct all these matters. These [terrorist] schemes are certainly rejected in part and parcel because of the various kinds of sabotage and murder they are perpetrating in Egypt that needs, in light of its human and material resources, to turn the wheel of development and progress in order to achieve prosperity and a better life for all citizens. It isn't patriotic, pious, or ethical to follow this scheme and to persist in it."

Mahmud Fayid added, "This phenomenon requires careful examination. The economic, psychological, and religious aspects must be analyzed so that we can develop applicable solutions. We live under a circumstance that cannot withstand the destruction being inflicted on Egypt's national economy. The most important proposals should start with the educational institutions so that students of various ages can be educated with curricula that promote psychological harmony. Youth centers should shoulder a main role in guidance and in developing intensive cultural, social, and athletic activities supported by adequate appropriations in order to fill the free time which young people have on their hands. Then comes the role of the religious institutions. They mustn't take the conventional form and they must

play a role in enlightenment through direct mass communication. The role of the media generally is to avoid degenerate series and cultures that are forced on us rudely and without permission through foreign series."

We Have Reached Religious Disintegration

Sahar 'Abur, a 20-year-old student, has said, "We have had enough dissolution and corruption. In my opinion, the essential liberation of women these days is the reason behind the terrorism phenomenon. Terrorism is rejected by all criteria. But the role of political organizations, embodied in political parties, cannot be disregarded. I believe that they feel reassured about the ordinary Egyptian citizen. I urge officials to create appropriate work opportunities for young graduates so that this black door can be shut in the face of terrorism and radicalism and so that these organizations will not be able to recruit recent graduates. Consequently, the radical and terrorist few can be contained and struck with an iron fist."

Crooked Methods

Mahmud Islam, a student, said, "In my capacity as one of the citizens of Upper Egypt who keep their word and who are concerned for their country's future, I assert that this phenomenon is spread throughout the Arab Republic of Egypt, especially in the village of Kawm al-Sa'ayidah. I personally had a personal experience with radical groups when I was a high-school student. I was nominated to be chairman of the governorate student union. But when the radicals became aware of the fact, they hosted me and adorned to me their life in this world in their crooked way. I turned them down flatly. Consequently, a shower of threatening letters poured down on me, promising to harm me. I paid no attention to their devious methods. I went to Counselor Isma'i al-Jawsaqi, an ex-governor of Bani Suwayf, and he promised to protect me from these people. Afterward, they started preaching their call at the Shari'ah Society Mosque on Salah Salim Street after the evening prayers, and they still do it. The goal of these groups is to recruit the largest number of select recently graduated physicians and lawyers."

Mahmud Islam added, "If the Egyptian information media had credibility, there would be friendship and love between citizens and policemen, who do perpetrate provocative acts at times."

Compassion Is Sweet

'Adil 'Ali al-Far from Samadun said, "The terrorism phenomenon is very serious. The people's various factions must fight these rebels who seek to strike Egyptian tourism, thus causing the Egyptian economy permanent damage. We have had enough inflation under these difficult living conditions, which may have been caused by the blow to tourism."

'Adil al-Far added: "It is necessary to confront these people. If they are truly what they claim to be, then why don't they come out openly and present their evidence and proofs?"

"God, the almighty, has said 'give me your proof.' The missing fact is that these people have lost their minds and that they don't appreciate how dangerous is the path they are following now. Let me ask them: What is the crime of the young and old men, of the children, and of the women who have been injured by the latest explosion in al-'Atabah Square? Compassion is sweet, brothers."

I Reject Terrorism

Ayman Muhammad Salih, a 23-year-old student, said, "I, as a Muslim and a religious man who is jealous for my faith and my country, reject terrorism absolutely. This small faction that offends Islam is in the wrong and it has strayed from the path. What saddens me most is that these people try to attribute all these actions to Islam and Muslims. But these gross ethics aren't the ethics of Muslims. They don't preach application of the Islamic shari'ah but rather seek personal goals, try to overthrow the regime so they will control the reins of power, and want the Egyptian citizen to be confused so he won't be eager for the responsibility of protecting his country." Ayman Salih added: "Common proverbs say that if your house is made of glass, don't throw...on other people's houses. These people must correct their course first and their families must adhere to the faith, and 'hold to forgiveness, command what is right, but turn away from the ignorant.'" [Koran 7:199].

Confused Ideas

Mahmud 'Ali Jad, a supervisor at al-Azhar, said: "The terrorism phenomenon wasn't born these days. Rather, it is the result of confused ideas and sick souls that don't know where they are heading. Since long ago, there have been radical ideas among people who don't appreciate their country's future and whose sole interest is physical liquidation. Disagreement with the government's opinion doesn't mean that we should strike and destroy the sources of livelihood in our country. Such destruction doesn't mean that they reject the system of government but that they destroy our country's economy, especially since it isn't in our nature to commit direct attacks against tourists. We are a hospitable people and Islam has urged us to treat guests well."

Khadijah al-Dardiri, a housewife, said, "Those who perpetrate such sabotage acts cannot be Egyptians who have drunk the water of the Nile River. They have sold their consciences dirt cheap. These acts can only make the people more determined to confront them. What is the crime of innocent people whose faces have been mutilated in the streets? The radicals are a misled faction that has strayed from the path and that must be punished. If they don the robe of Islam, then [Islam says] whoever has killed must be killed. They are the ones who

started the killing. The security people must punish them on behalf of the Egyptian people."

Shaykh Majdi Abu-Dan, a barber, said: "Islam is innocent of these degenerates who have offended Islam and Muslims in all parts of the world. The honorable prophet [Muhammad] said: 'No man among you can be trusted until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.' Man is good by nature. The prophet also said: 'Shall I lead you to something which, if you do it, will make you love each other? Spread peace among yourselves.' Peace is one of God's qualities, may He be praised and exalted, whereas the sabotage acts which are denounced by every mind, inflict a heavy loss on our property and on state property. This is why I advise the youth to fear God Who, may He be praised and exalted, said: 'And for those who fear God, He (ever) prepares a way out, and He provides for him from (sources) he never could imagine' [Koran 65: 2,3]. The Muslim to the Muslim is a brother and Muslims should stand united like bricks in a wall supporting each other. A characteristic of Muslims is the love of what is good for all people, be they Muslims or non-Muslims. We wish to live in love and peace."

Media's Role

Mansur al-Qattan, the owner of a blacksmith's shop, added, "The terrorism phenomenon has become widespread in our beloved Egypt these days. Tourist installations, fire stations, and cafes don't deserve to be hit. What crime have innocent citizens committed that their blood may be shed?"

Al-Qattan notes that the media have a vital role in educating citizens in "how to identify one's enemy so that this phenomenon can be uprooted. These people must be confronted most forcefully, no matter what the reasons. We must follow the podiums of sincere patriots. Islam doesn't support bloodshed and murder."

Hasan Sa'id al-Harrani, chairman of the students union at the Specialized College in Ashmun, said: "I urge young people to embrace righteous morals and to adhere to the principles, customs, and traditions with which we have been raised since childhood. As the saying goes, the young among us grow up with that on which their parents train them. It is necessary to educate children. Sound religious enlightenment is essential for establishing the mainstays of love and amity among individuals. I appeal to security officials in the governorates to develop amity and love with the citizens and among themselves so that reassurance may be restored to the Egyptian scene. I also appeal to these officials not to let some among them engage in a show of force and provocative acts that the Egyptian citizen dislikes, thus driving this citizen away from both soldier and officer."

Citizen Fahimah Sabir Muhyi-al-Din, a housewife, said, "In wake of the developments that have taken place, frankly, we are so afraid we don't want our children to go out on the street for fear that some of those explosive charges about which we hear will be thrown. Terrorism

must be wiped out of the country because conditions are difficult. If we have no fear for our country, who will worry about it. What do those people who wear beards want? They have ruined us with the operations they carry out. Fear God, you people. Is it permissible or prohibited to kill?"

It Pleases Neither Foe Nor Friend

Citizen Nura Mustafa Khalil added, "The condition under which we live please neither foe nor friend. Egypt is a safe country that loves its guests. Why do they want to reduce the number of tourists. This is premeditated. Tourism is good, it brings us revenues, and it gives other countries a bright image of our own country. By God, we are amazed by these people whose sole concern is to kill, loot, and plunder the lives of innocent citizens. You people, fear God and be ashamed."

Islamist Writer Cites Opposition to Islamic Law

93LD0016D Cairo *AL-AHRAM WEEKLY* in English
22-28 Apr 93 p 5

[Article by Fahmi Huwaydi]

[Text] I never imagined that I would find myself joining the camp of those opposed to the application of Islamic law. Yet, when Colonel al-Qadhdhafi announced that codes of Islamic punishment would come into force in Libya, I found that my immediate gut reaction was to do exactly that—join the opposition. However, before explaining the reason for my sudden transition, I must emphasise that I am motivated by the fact that the appeal for Islamic law is now being made in Libya, and not by any inherent antagonism to the principle of applying Islamic law as such.

The story in brief is as follows. On 4 April, Arab and international press reports announced that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, in a televised speech to the popular councils, announced that Libya would implement the Islamic regulations for criminal punishment. These penalties, or hudud, which include amputating the hands of thieves and whipping or stoning adulterers, should be passed into law as soon as possible, al-Qadhdhafi said, and implemented in public so that such punishment of criminals would serve as a lesson to all. He was particularly eager that the punishment of amputating the hands of thieves be passed into law quickly, as in his opinion so many thieves are released from prison without having received due punishment for their crimes. He stressed that the law should be applied to embezzlers of public funds, to whom he referred as committing a crime against society as a whole.

Whether the Libyan President truly senses a problem of such magnitude that the imposition of Islamic forms of punishment seems to him to be the only solution, or whether he is addressing popular Islamic sentiment in order to gain popular support at a time when Libya is isolated in the international community, I do not know.

However I will treat his speech seriously as a sincere call for the implementation of Islamic law.

Many are not surprised by al-Qadhdhafi's appeal, accustomed as they are to his sudden shifts in stance and to his arbitrary decisions which arouse an immediate stir but are soon forgotten. Also, he made the same appeal immediately after the Libyan revolution 20 years ago, and the laws were drawn up at the time, but for some reason they were never put into effect. But I nevertheless think that the matter deserves attention because it provides an appropriate opportunity to delineate a clear stance with regard to the imposition of Islamic legal regulations within a framework that does not violate or debase the lofty aims of Islamic law itself.

I am not particularly concerned with the resonance of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's appeal abroad, where Islam is automatically associated with violence and terrorism and where the implementation of hudud will be taken only as confirmation of the one-sided view held there. An analysis of the issue as far as it concerns us is far more valuable than reflecting upon the opinions of outsiders; if we consider the issue within its proper framework, the derision or scorn of others should not concern us.

To begin with, one can hardly conceal one's surprise at the hasty call for the implementation of Islamic law, for it appears confined to a set of authoritarian rules and decrees. One's surprise is compounded when these rules and decrees are further confined to matters of punishment, as though God sent the Prophet Muhammad to convey to the people only a set of legal codes with which to punish criminals and adulterers. Such restrictions to the concept of Islamic law only show the penal aspects of the system, as though the Islamic message were primarily directed at criminals and degenerates, who in fact are only marginal components of society. This pitiful image of Islam is an affront to Islam itself. Taken in this way crudeness and severity distort and demean the lofty aims of religion. It ignores its spirit of revival which is capable of mobilising all the potential for good towards true progress and the betterment of life on earth, not to mention the after-world.

One cannot help but be dismayed when confronted by the persistence among political leaders and proponents of Islamic law in ignoring its comprehensiveness and equity and in treating their societies as though they were collections of criminals who can only be deterred by fear and the threat of the whip or the sword. Islam is not a set of punitive promulgations, nor does it confer legal authority on rulers alone. Even the most elementary students of Islamic law know that it comprises everything God ordained to his believers so as to organise their affairs in life, whether this regards their relationship with God, with themselves or with society. Taken from this perspective, Islamic law has a complexity that embraces all aspects of life, so that ultimately the rulings relating to criminal punishment diminish so as to become barely perceptible. Significant in this context is that the hudud with which so many are obsessed was

only a very late revelation in the Qur'an, most of which is devoted to spiritual and intellectual enlightenment and guidance and to the founding of a basis for the advancement and progress of Islamic civilisation.

Aspects of Military Housing Reviewed

93AF0534B Cairo AL-NASR in Arabic 1 Mar 93
pp 48-49

[Text] Much activity is going on in the area of military housing this year. Housing units are ready for possession for all those who made reservations in the first and second phases, as well as for some of those who reserved in the third phase. Warrant officers started to take possession of 1,233 units of the third phase in Hulwan, and the rest will be ready for possession during the coming three months. This year too, the subscription will be opened in the fourth phase for those who have not previously subscribed in military housing projects.

In a meeting Major General Muhammad Mu'in, manager of the Military Housing Fund, responded to all our queries, the first of which was about the unit allocation of the second lot of reservations in the third housing project phase.

He said that allocation of units would be made during the current month in the al-Zahra' area in Nasr city. He also mentioned that planning was ongoing to choose suitable sites for the fourth phase in Cairo, Alexandria, al-Isma'iliyah, Tanta, az-Zagazig, al-Mansuriya, Shibin al-Kawn, al-Minya, and Asyut.

Major General Mu'in said that presently in al-Zahra' in Nasr City, and in all other second phase projects, units are being made ready for those who made reservations in the second phase and were supposed to take possession next year. Third phase units are also being made ready in the areas of al-Shuruq, al-Qada', and al-Zahra' in Nasr city.

He also said that housing for other ranks, namely units in the housing project areas of East Air Force Secondary and Hulwan Gardens, are presently ready for possession. Other ranks whose housing projects are not ready, such as subscribers in al-Salam project, will be allotted units in the American Housing project in Hulwan and al-'Ubud city on the road to Bilbays. Housing units for all officers and other military ranks who have subscribed in the three phases of housing projects will thus be ready for possession by the end of the year.

What about other subscribers, such as honorary and warrant officers, who so far have not been allotted any units and who have paid only one pound? What are their current financial obligations, and their obligations through unit allocation and unit possession?

Major General Mu'in responded by saying that a subscription fee of only one pound had been available for ranks at the beginning of the project. Starting the first of July 1989, subscription instructions were set at 1,500

pounds for down payment and 100 pounds as subscription fees for those who had not paid the one pound (mentioned above). Furthermore, 35.5 pounds were to be deducted from the monthly check until the allocation was made, then the monthly payment would have to be determined according to both the area of the allocated unit and the number of rooms.

As for officers and warrant officers who have not subscribed before and would like to do that now, Major General Muhammad Mu'in said they should follow the following procedures:

Officers' subscriptions in the fourth phase have been accepted starting the first of January 1993 whereby the officer should pay 150 pounds as subscription fee. Subscriptions could be paid until the end of March 1993. The down payment is 2,500 pounds to be paid by 30 June 1993. Then a payment of 50 pounds would be deducted from the monthly check until allocations are made. The monthly payment would then be determined according to costs paid during this phase. Costs would be determined later on.

As for other ranks, subscriptions are still accepted according to previously announced conditions mentioned in the above response.

I submit to the Housing Fund manager for review some letters whose senders requested that their units be exchanged for larger ones.

He responds by saying that it is difficult to grant the requests of all those who asked for larger units because there are absolutely no vacant units left for allocation.

Talking about investment housing, the Military Housing Fund manager says that profits from the sale of investment housing are used to subsidize and bring down costs of units allocated to officers and warrant officers who are subscribers in the military housing project. They expect to advertise, opening the door for accepting subscriptions during 1993 for units in al-Zahra' Nasr city and the Golf Land areas when necessary bids and measures are carried out to determine prices.

The Major General clarifies how the Military Housing Fund participated in helping the 12 October 1992 earthquake victims. First, victims had to present documents to prove their status, then the documents were studied. The Fund then provided 66 units for officers and other ranks who were victims. The Fund allowed the victims to pay in installments in order to help alleviate some of the psychological and financial hardship that they faced, even though some of them were members in the housing projects and some were not.

The Major General's hopes for the Project's future are as follows:

Major General Mu'in adds that he hopes that every subscriber would realize how much the General Command authorities do to execute and finish housing projects, though they have become very costly. For

example, building the infrastructure for al-Rimayah project cost 4.3 million pounds and that for al-Zahra' Nasr city 16.8 millions. The Housing Fund has good and clear plans for its work through 1995. Subscribers have no more financial obligations. Though the infrastructure for the two projects mentioned above cost 21.1 million pounds, beneficiaries did not have to make any extra contributions.

The Major General demands that the beneficiaries maintain their premises well. A savings fund—paid in cash and installments—would be available for maintenance needs. This is one of the most important ideas (proposals) implemented for the beneficiaries' benefit.

Director Discusses War College Curriculum
93AF0534A Cairo AL-NASR in Arabic 1 Apr 93
pp 14-15

[Article by al-Sawi 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sawi]

[Text] The War College is a great scientific military fortress, which has produced and will continue to produce courageous officers and future leaders. Those officers and leaders will always defend the nation's sacred soil and bring their dear mother Egypt glorious victories. Due to its important role, the College has developed in a way that matches the modern era and the astronomical development in weapons and equipment. Its education curriculum is most advanced and it has provided its students language laboratories with no equal in the Middle East. In addition, the College has modern electronic shooting fields. There have also been big developments in sports and administrative affairs.

The military forces were generous in staffing the College with their best officers and leaders. The College's good domestic and international reputation has caused military colleges in the big countries to request student exchanges with the College.

The War College is keen to maintain its role in friendly Arab and African countries; therefore it has always opened its doors to brethren from these countries.

I met with the College director Major General Mustafa Kamil who said:

"The College has a defined mission. This mission is to graduate a highly efficient combat officer who can lead his small secondary unit and preserve its weapons and equipment. In other words, he should be ready for fighting. The small unit is naturally the platoon. The College's mission has been virtually the same since its establishment.

The College development is based on comprehensive five-year plans. The present plan started in 1989/90 and will end in 1994/95. The plan is based on parallel axes. These are:

The first axis: Lessons gained from the 1973 October War.

The second axis: Lessons gained from our contribution to the Gulf War. We gained lessons from both sides of this war. The first lesson was the Iraqi rapid invasion of Kuwait and the second the liberation of Kuwait through the use of armed force.

The third axis: The very fast and extensive development of weapons and equipment.

The fourth axis: Developments taking place all over the world in basic scientific disciplines.

These axes are interlinked, and it is hard to imagine that the College could be developed without any one of them. Studying these axes carefully, we have drawn a balanced and comprehensive plan to develop the curriculum. A balance has been achieved in curriculum in the areas of military, scientific, and human sciences, and in applied training and scientific experience. In addition, the different administrative units have been enhanced in order to raise the War College student morale.

An officer in Present-Day Settings

According to the current elements of the plan, we have managed to finalize the qualifications that would characterize the College graduate. The graduate would be able to maintain the fighting efficiency of his small secondary unit and interact with current highly advanced weapons and equipment. He would also be able to implement a training plan for members of his unit and preserve their morale. He should have a spirit of leadership, develop his areas of specialization, and pass contests so that he can assume all leadership roles.

The teaching method for military and human sciences has been enhanced. Curricula for different disciplines were also enhanced to meet students' needs. These disciplines included field engineering, auto and similar kinds of engineering, languages, combat art, and laboratories for the military sciences, especially those for chemistry and physics. There has also been much development in administration."

Big Countries' Colleges Request Visits With Us

Major General Mustafa Kamil, director of the War College says: "The Egyptian War College is considered comparable to colleges in the developed countries of the world. Some of the colleges in big countries such as the American war college (West Point), and the Italian, French and Turkish war colleges, have requested exchanges with us. We encourage these visits because we would like to become acquainted with the latest developments in these colleges as well as exchange experiences with them for our future benefit."

The exchange student attends scientific, applied, and operationally advanced courses. In fact, what the student learns scientifically, he applies and puts into operation. One of the prominent training developments is the policy that students train in the same special forces unit as special forces officers. The College director expressed

his happiness that 90 percent of the students attend this special forces strenuous training for 14 weeks. The student is also trained in the preliminary parachute jumping unit.

The College director considers these two units, with all the hardship involved in them, the main pillars for the combat officer in the future. This is because training in these units teaches the officer to bear great hardships and to preserve complete physical and mental fitness, all requirements necessary for the officer of the future.

Applied off-campus training follows the training in these two units. The surveillance method has been developed, which aims at developing the theoretical, applied, and operational study of the terrain in which the student might serve in the future.

In addition to developing the theoretical and applied aspects of disciplines, the College has made changes in the length of the period that the student has to spend at college. Though this period has been shortened, course hours have remained the same because a College graduate has to be a combat officer who can endure any hardship under all circumstances, day and night. Shortening the period of college attendance has been achieved by changing to a year-round system. This system also increases the officer's period of service by a full calendar year.

A Fortress Opened to the Brethren

Students from different Arab and African countries, such as Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and Somalia, have joined the War College to learn military sciences in this great scientific military fortress. These students mingle with Egyptian students, who embrace them as brothers. This attitude is neither a strange nor a new one at the College, because it has been characterized by such an attitude since its establishment.

IRAQ

Central Bank Encourages Establishment of New Banks

93AE0481B Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 10 Mar 93 p 10

[Text] An authorized source of the Central Bank of Iraq announced that the Bank's board of directors has studied the question of the establishment of investment banks in the form of shareholder companies on the basis and in accordance with the provisions of Companies Law No. 36 for 1983 and in accordance with Companies Law No. 64 for 1976, Amended. The source denied that the Central Bank's approval forwarded to the Company Registration Office at the Ministry of Commerce was a start-up permit, as was published in the newspapers in accordance with stipulations of the law; on the contrary, since such banks will belong to the private sector, the Bank studied their articles of incorporation and made comments thereupon. The Bank had previously studied

the articles of incorporation of another banking investment company. The Bank will consider the matter of granting money-exchange permits to these banks following the conclusion of their establishment procedures.

The interest in the establishment of investment banks stems from their positive ramifications in promoting the production process in the Iraqi economy, the areas in which the investment bank may directly and indirectly take part, and the positive consequences for all economic activities. The Central Bank of Iraq will undertake indirect supervision of all investment areas that these banks wish to practice or enter by way of operative laws.

Water Situation, Differences With Turkey Discussed

93WN0391Z Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Apr 93 p 2

[Article by Sana' al-Naqqash: "Water Enters International Conflicts"]

[Text] Water is a divine blessing that God—may He be praised—granted to man at the beginning of creation. He made it a source of riches, wealth, and life for mankind. Civilizations emerged and grew up near rivers. On the banks of rivers rose the most beautiful stories and poems. Prophets and ascetics were baptized in water. Saints took oaths by it and put vows into it. Iraqi women still place candles of Khidr-Elijah to float on the current and slowly reach the other side, to signify that their wishes will come true.

But have the world's rivers and waters remained only a source of good, growth, comfort, and electrical power generation, or have they turned into a source of disturbance, problems, and strife between nations and peoples?

History tells us that greed has turned good into an evil. Nature, which grants mankind its shares of good and resources, no longer can continue to give as it did for thousands of years, because mankind's hand has begun to destroy the good. This is what enemies and neighbors do.

The trilateral committee composed of Iraq, Syria, and Turkey held 16 meetings between 1982 and 1992—the most recent of them last September in Damascus—and reached no agreement on norms and principles for dividing the water shared among the three countries. Turkey rejects division in principle. It does not consider the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates shared, only that they cross borders. This was confirmed by Mr. 'Abdal-Karim Muhammad Aswad, a foreign ministry consultant, in an interview he gave on Iraqi television. He indicated that international law gives a country the right to erect installations only with the approval and agreement of the other parties. Nevertheless, Turkey currently is building a fourth dam, which will store 1.25 billion cubic meters for agricultural use. The dam will affect Iraq, reducing the amount of water arriving in the

Euphrates river and degrading its quality. This involves a clear violation of international law and treaties signed with Turkey on the division of shared waters. These treaties include the 1946 protocol, which provides that Turkey must inform Iraq and obtain approval when erecting any project or dam, so that it will not cause harm to Iraq. The World Bank should fund such projects only if there is agreement on them by the beneficiary parties.

One wonders whether Turkey needs this quantity of water? The facts indicate the opposite.

In another interview, Dr. Khaldun Naji Ma'ruf, head of the Palestine Studies Center, indicated the importance of water in the life of nations and in artificial entities like Israel, which is holding on to occupied Arab lands for the sake of water. One of the sources of the Jordan River is in the Golan region. Israel by various scientific and engineering methods is trying to siphon water from the West Bank, where 40 percent of underground water resources are concentrated.

Arabs must become conscious of the meaning of the water problem. Water is not only for daily consumption; it also means economy, and it means agriculture. We are led to recall the water problem between Senegal and Mauritania in 1988.

Returning to Mesopotamia, the land between the two rivers, we recall how it mobilized its forces and did the impossible to dig the Saddam canal in record time of under 180 days. The canal irrigates nearly 6 million dunams and has created new agricultural and industrial water between Baghdad and al-Basrah to the south. Military industrial workers excavated 71 million cubic meters and built 89 vehicular and railway bridges, compressed [sada'] totaling 2.5 million cubic meters, and many concrete installations.

Backing in this gigantic work was provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction, the al-Qadisiyah Organization, the Iraqi Salah-al-Din Company, the al-Muthanna and Palestine Company, the General Organization for Irrigation and Reclamation Projects, the Euphrates Center for Irrigation Studies and Designs, the al-Rashid Company, the al-Anfal and Ashur Company, and other agencies. Many private-sector companies contributed to this gigantic undertaking. The canal will create new water. It has given Iraqis a new outlook on work because it is not easy to dig a canal in a country under economic blockade for the last two years and still under blockade.

The Military Industrial Organization is still engaged in water activities. Work is still in progress on other small canals. Iraq will soon become a paradise like the paradise of fertile land to which the Arabs of the Arabian peninsula migrated and of whose abundant water they sang praises.

In planning these canals and this splendid agricultural future for Iraq, the Military Industrial Organization has not forgotten how the Sumerian king (Antamina) dug the Shatt al-Gharraf in an attempt to connect the Tigris with the Euphrates for use in irrigating crops.

Call For Rationalizing Water Use

At the same time, Dr. 'Adnan Jabiru, general director of the Baghdad Water District, called on residents of the capital to stop the daily waste of drinking water, which now amounts to 70 million gallons a day. He added that this quantity of wasted water would be sufficient to satisfy the daily needs of 1 million people. He indicated that the efforts of more than 20 workers were needed to bring 1 cubic meter of purified water to a home.

He stated: "There are more than 500,000 customers in Baghdad. We have prepared a study of their daily water consumption. We assumed that 5 percent of the interior fixtures of their homes leak 4-mm drops at minimum. The volume of losses thus is 40 million gallons a day. Washing one car requires 0.5 cubic meters of water. If we assume that only 10 percent of customers wash their cars, they use 12,000 cubic meters of water, or 2.5 million gallons of water a day. We found that one air cooler in a home, used at the average rate, with water leakage in 10 percent of the existing 620,000 coolers in Baghdad—that is to say, 62,000 defective coolers—that these coolers waste 12,400 gallons of water." Baghdad, he indicated, is noted for the size and number of its large gardens and spacious houses. Two kinds of water are used in them: purified and crude. Many residents use purified water to sprinkle the street and gardens, especially in summer. As each garden requires less than 200 liters of water, the total comes to 2.25 million gallons of water a day, equivalent to 160 customers for crude water. Thus water wasted by Iraq citizens in Baghdad comes to about 70 million gallons a day.

We therefore call on all citizens to rationalize water consumption and not to waste, especially since the hot weather is coming, bringing possible water cutoffs and shortages. Every drop means a great deal. The water reaching our homes means difficulty, the expenditure of large sums of dinars and dollars, and great human effort in purification plants, water conduits, and reservoirs. We hope that the call will find attentive ears during the summer season.

Reported Drop in Prices of Food Items

93AE0481A *Baghdad ALIF BA'* in Arabic 10 Mar 93
p 10

[Text] Early this week local markets witnessed a sharp drop in prices of food items. Most items are being sold at 5 to 10 percent below the officially fixed prices, accompanied by a noticeable slackness in purchase and sale activity.

Fat is currently sold at 265 to 315 dinars [ID] for a 15-kg canister; its officially fixed price is 330 ID.

Imported flour is sold at 450 ID, while its officially fixed price is 550 ID.

Tea is sold at 800 ID plus, whereas its officially fixed price is set at 1,120 ID for a 20-kg canister.

The price of rice declined slightly; it is sold for 445 ID per 50-kg bag, whereas its officially fixed price is 450 ID.

Sugar retained its price of 550 ID for a 50-kg bag.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister on Saudi Arabia, Iraq

93AE0478A London *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* in Arabic
8 May 93 pp 1, 4

[Article by Wafa'i Diyab]

[Text] Kuwait—This is the second interview with Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir since the liberation of Kuwait. The first also took place in Kuwait about a year ago. But Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad was not in office then, although he was not outside the position of authority.

One thing that has absolutely not changed during this time was the "Tuesday Diwaniyah [meeting]" in which Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad sits for three hours listening to the complaints of citizens and seeks their views. They include ministers and opposition and progovernment members. They exchange views over cups of tea and bitter coffee. They reminisce over the old days, the time when this dreamy country was lying on the Gulf shore, which was crowded by fishermen and pearl divers. It was a quiet country whose calmness was interrupted only by the rolling ocean waves, until the "Iraqi storm" blew up and destroyed everything.

Talking about the "Iraqi storm" leads to talking about [Iraqi] occupation, the military situation then, and the [government's] return from al-Taif to a new Kuwait and new Kuwaitis. Discussion then touches on the question of prisoners, missing families, and Barzan and Saddam Husayn.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad then asked about AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT and the amount of its circulation and sales. With a broad smile on his face he says: "Great...this is our newspaper. It was in the forefront in helping us during the predicament. We will always remember it for its good deeds." Responding, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked Sabah al-Ahmad about the present conditions Kuwait is experiencing. Smiling again, he said: "Not here...I will talk tomorrow."

Sabah al-Ahmad said: "Kuwait will never forget Saudi Arabia's good deeds toward it. The memory of liberation will forever be associated with the sacrifices the kingdom has offered for the sake of restoring right to its owners. He added: "We will never allow the existing strong ties

between the two countries to be affected by anything. Anything to the contrary is totally rejected."

Referring to the present Saudi-Kuwaiti coordination in many fields, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said: "This will continue for the benefit of both countries and of the Arab nation and its interests."

The deputy prime minister expressed some optimism with regard to the possibility of closing the file of the prisoners and missing Kuwaitis. He pointed out in this regard to the efforts King Hassan II is making, one of the first results of which was the return of the missing family to Kuwait. But he stressed that Kuwait rejects any attempt to trade prisoners in return for the restoration of ties with the "opposing countries."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed that "Kuwait is in the process of reappraising its foreign policy because it does not wish to be isolated in the world. It is conditional that the "opposing countries should admit that they have committed a wrong against the Kuwaiti people."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said the border demarcation committee will hold its last meeting next week in order to sign the agreement on land and sea demarcation. "We hope that we will then have resolved the problem once and for all."

It is not easy to persuade Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to answer all the questions, at this time in particular when he is fighting on many fronts because of the absence of Crown Prince Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdullah abroad. But he gives you the impression that everything is proceeding in the right direction and according to the plans laid down by the government when it was formed six months ago. In his view, the government is solid and cohesive. What is even more important is that there is one single government, and that the rumors that there is one government for the opposition and another for the government is only a kind of fishing in troubled water.
[sentence as published]

Information Minister on Iraq, Syria, Assassination Attempt

93AE487B London *AL-HAYAH* in Arabic 12 May 93
p 6

[Interview with Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Badrakhan in Kuwait; date not given]

[Text] Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah views the "Iraqi dinar crisis" as the beginning of the deterioration of relations between Iraq and the countries that supported its occupation of Kuwait. In an interview with AL-HAYAH he said that the ball is now in the court of those countries. It is now up to them if they want to "rectify their stands." While he stressed "Kuwait's desire to purify the Arab atmosphere," he said that is it up to those who "broke with the Arab rank" to take the initiative.

Shaykh Sa'ud expressed Kuwait's desire to implement the "Damascus Declaration" because it is equally in the interest of all its parties.

The following is text of the interview:

[Badrakhan] How do you see the [Iraqi] dinar crisis between Iraq and Jordan?

[al-Sabah] Everything that is unnatural does not last. This is how Jordan's attitude toward Iraq during the occupation of Kuwait can be described. Jordanian media's continuing hostility toward Kuwait is bound to end, when those concerned feel that they were wrong in supporting the Iraqi regime. Anybody who stood with the Iraqi regime will be sorry because this is a terrorist and dictatorial regime violating all the international laws, a regime that has occupied a whole state. How can they stand against Israeli occupation of an Arab land and at the same time support the occupation of an Arab country by another Arab country. In my opinion, Iraq's relations with the countries that supported it will deteriorate because when the regimes of those countries supported Iraq they did not do so on the basis of principles and rights, but rather were motivated by personal gains. When such interests cease to exist, those supporters will change their stands. This will be the beginning of a chain reaction, and of the collapse of the Iraqi regime, which is in a state of isolation. The handful of the Arab countries that supported the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and manipulated their people in the streets in support of it, are not enthusiastic today about the measures Iraq has taken regarding the Iraqi dinar. They will the price for their stands.

[Badrakhan] Isn't this an opportune moment to win over these countries against Iraq?

[al-Sabah] It is up to these countries to clarify their stands. We will not seek to win over anybody and we will beg from nobody. Kuwait is adopting an honorable stand and has strong relations with all the world countries, except, unfortunately, with some Arab countries that supported the Iraqi regime against us. In any case, the attitude of these countries will not affect Kuwait's stability, characteristic, and relations. We will not beg for stands in support of us. If they want to rectify their stands, the ball is in their court. We in Kuwait, both government and people, will not extend our hand to the regimes that ignored what we have suffered. The wounds have not yet healed.

[Badrakhan] Is changing the Iraqi regime a necessary condition for Arab reconciliation?

[al-Sabah] Since we were born we have been hearing about purifying the Arab atmosphere and the unity of the Arab rank. Let's see what these words mean. The Kuwaiti calamity has revealed the reality of many regimes. We have been honored by the civilized countries that respect the international laws supporting us. This is an honor for the Kuwaiti foreign policy and a testimony in its favor. The responsibility of purifying the

Arab ranks falls upon the countries that have dissented from the Arab stand they should have adopted in August 1990. How can there be disagreement over the question of one Arab country occupying another Arab country and dispersing its people? This is out of the question. We wish to purify the Arab atmosphere, but this is not our responsibility. It is their responsibility, since they are the ones who caused the collapse that has happened. If they wish to go back to the unity of the Arab ranks it is up to them; it is up to those who dissented with the Arab rank and violated the Arab League Charter, the UN Charter, and the principles of international rights.

[Badrakhan] The "Damascus Declaration" was among the subjects President Husni Mubarak discussed in Kuwait. Are there still any sensitivities regarding the implementation of the declaration?

[al-Sabah] There are no sensitivities at all. As far as we are concerned the "Damascus Declaration" is one of the basis on which we will build relations between honorable Arab countries for cooperation within a specified framework. With regard to security or economy or both, we are committed to the "Damascus Declaration." Don't forget that we are the originators of this idea. With regard to implementation, a committee consisting of the ministers of finance will meet shortly in order to define obligations of the member states. The matter is of importance for Egypt and Syria as much as it is for the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council], particularly in these circumstances and whatever circumstances that may develop. Implementing the declaration is in the interest of the declaration countries.

[Badrakhan] The return of the six missing persons who were found in Iraq has led to talking about a Moroccan mediation in the question of POWs. Would you confirm this mediation, and has any progress been made?

[al-Sabah] We have knocked at every door in order to get help for the prisoners and detainees in Iraqi jails and for the family that recently went missing. We had contacts with all the countries and governments and all the world humanitarian organizations in order to ensure the implementation of the provision on prisoners in Resolution 687. We appreciate the positive role that King Hassan has played; it enabled us to contact the Iraqi regime, particularly concerning the missing family. We also noted that the arrest of members of this family was typical of the Iraqi regime's barbaric actions. The family in question consisted of six people with their ages ranging between 20 years and two years. We have been looking for them for a whole month. We have also launched an information and search campaign along the borders. Then we learned that the missing people were detained by the Iraqi regime. They are only a family and not soldiers or military forces. This is typical of the Iraqi regime's attitude toward people and humans. We are certain that Kuwaiti citizens are still being held captive by the Iraqi regime. We spare no efforts to obtain their release. Their problem is one the government's priorities.

[Badrakhan] Don't you think that the release of the six missing persons is a signal by Iraq to the possibility of solving the question of prisoners within a political framework?

[al-Sabah] The prisoners should not be subject to any bargaining or be part of any kind of deals. Our prisoners will not be subject to barter of any kind. Our prisoners come first. This is final and not subject to bargaining. Don't forget that the Iraqi regime for several years did not admit that it is holding Iranian prisoners, but after occupying Kuwait it released many of them.

[Badrakhan] Work on the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders will shortly be completed. How important is the subject to you, and is it part of a settlement of the aftermath of war?

[al-Sabah] In my view the borders issue was settled many years ago. Legally the question of borders has been settled since 1932, when the borders were clearly defined. These included land borders, the islands, and other issues. The minutes of the meeting, which [late president] Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr signed together with the late Shaykh Sabah al-Salim, confirmed the principles of 1932. This was clear. What was left to be done is to demarcate the borders. Had this agreement been entrusted to any specialized body in order to draw the borders, it would have drawn them as they have now been drawn by the United Nations. But Iraqi procrastination were politically motivated and have no legal grounds. Following the disaster of the occupation of Kuwait demarcation of the borders became the responsibility of the United Nations in accordance with the agreements between the two countries. We did not take from Iraq what is not our right and did not give it more than what is its right. The land borders have now been drawn and have been confirmed by the UNSC [UN Security Council] Resolution 773. The committee has completed demarcating the borders and the maritime borders and defined the territorial waters. On 20 May the UNSC will endorse the conclusions reached by the committee. Thus our land and our maritime borders have been demarcated, defined, and legally documented by the Security Council.

[Badrakhan] The question of border demarcation has been the subject of discussion between the two countries but never called for UN intervention to solve the problem.

[Al-Sabah] The United Nations did not intervene between the two countries in order to solve the borders problem. Rather, it intervened because one country occupied another country in its entirety and tried to erase it from the world map. Many countries say demarcation of borders is not the UNSC jurisdiction. Many countries have border problems. But the situation between Iraq and Kuwait is exceptional and different. After the liberation it became one of the UNSC obligations to clearly define and document the borders. The Iraqi envoy to the demarcation committee is a person

renowned for his expertise in international law. He was my schoolmate during my international law studies. Unfortunately, he withdrew from the committee when it became fully convinced of Kuwaiti rights on the basis of the documents we submitted. Iraq did not present any documents or agreements contrary to those we submitted. It had no excuse whatsoever. The withdrawal from the committee was a political step.

[Badrakhan] What is the truth regarding the wall that is going to be built or the trench that is going to be dug along the borders? Is there a comprehensive Kuwaiti vision for the fortification of the borders?

[al-Sabah] There has never been any barricades and barriers between us and Iraq. But in the recent past and since the liberation, the Iraqi regime has been sending intelligence and sabotage elements to Kuwait. No mountain and river barriers exist along the borders. It is difficult therefore for the Kuwaiti security authorities to maintain control on the borders and ban the entry of saboteurs or combat smuggling in the northern area.

The Kuwaiti Government has decided to take steps that have now become necessary, including digging a trench along the borders in order to maintain security and foil attempts by Iraqis to infiltrate the borders, as has happened when a terrorist network was uncovered. It is Kuwait's right to preserve the safety and security of its territories against the Iraqi regime's attempts to send intelligence elements to undermine Kuwait's security and stability. We believe that nobody has the right to object to such measures. We got acquainted with some existing border arrangements between countries, like that between the United States and Mexico, which is designed to fight smuggling. What has been decided to be done in Kuwait is only part of a series of measures we are going to take in order to establish a command and control system on the borders. As for the fourth wall [as published], which you hear about, it is not a wall in the real sense. Rather, it is the concept that it is necessary to establish barricades that would help maintain border control.

[Badrakhan] You have referred to the network accused of planning to assassinate the former U.S. President. Recently Washington sent a team to watch the progress of the investigation. How much progress has been made in this investigation?

[al-Sabah] What has been reported by some news agencies and U.S. newspapers was mere speculation. What we have actually announced was that a group of terrorists has entered Kuwait, and that Kuwaiti intelligence was watching and following it. We have been able to arrest members of the group in possession of a enormous quantity of explosives. They admitted they were planning to carry out terrorist actions that would undermine Kuwait's security and stability. One of them admitted that one of the group's task was to assassinate President Bush. The case was referred to the public prosecution for further investigation. After the incident was reported in

the press, the U.S. side decided to send a team to follow-up the Kuwaiti investigations, in view of the fact that the case concerned an attempt to assassinate a [former] U.S. president. This falls within the framework of exchange of security information between us and between friendly states. This does not encroach on Kuwaiti sovereignty. All the measures are being taken under the supervision of public prosecution, and it is possible to provide the U.S. side with all the information regarding the attempt to assassinate the former president.

[Badrakhan] Has the charge of attempted assassination been confirmed?

[al-Sabah] We have their confessions, which are clear. Plus there is the weapons and explosives they possessed. Some of them have also admitted that they have been charged with carrying out suicide operations. Had we not been able to arrest them they would have carried out operations that would undermine Kuwait's stability.

MOROCCO

First Maghreb Conference on Family Planning 93AF0584B Rabat *L'OPINION* in French 29 Apr 93 p 1

[Editorial by Ahmed Alaoui: "Evaluation of National Family Planning Program: Accomplishments and Prospects"]

[Text] Under the august auspices of his majesty the king, the first Maghreb Conference on Population and Family Planning was held 19-21 April in Rabat and featured participation by delegations from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, the World Health Organization, the EEC, USAID [U.S. Agency for International Development], and representatives of family planning associations.

In assessing past achievements and future prospects of Morocco's policy in this domain, one must first note that family planning plays an important role in promoting family health. His Majesty Hassan II, cognizant of the economic and social implications of rapid population growth, sent a royal memorandum in 1965 [on the subject] to all political, labor, and corporate organizations. The king was among the first signatories of the declaration of heads of state on population in December 1967. Morocco therein committed itself to a family planning policy that since 1968 has been integrated into the country's socioeconomic development plans. The state's political resolve was also shown in the 1966 creation of the National Family Planning Program, the High Commission on Population, and the provincial and prefectoral commissions.

Overall, the National Family Planning Program has made encouraging progress in the opinion of everyone involved, a fact confirmed in February of this year at the national intersectoral seminar on family planning. We

are seeing a net increase in the incidence of contraception (proportion of women who use a contraceptive method).

This proportion has increased from 19.4 percent in 1979-80 to 41.5 percent in 1992. The normalized fertility index (average number of children for each woman) dropped from 7.2 in 1962 to 4.2 in 1992. In urban areas, the index is down to 2.8. The crude birthrate (average number of births per 1,000 inhabitants), which was 34.3 in 1982, is now 27.3. The rate of demographic growth—3.5 percent per year between 1952 and 1960—is now 2.7 percent, and if current trends continue it will be reduced to 1.88 percent by 2002-2007.

Other health indicators have shown similar improvement in the last 25 years. Infant mortality, estimated at 91 per 1,000 live births in the years 1975-79, has declined to 57.4.

Obviously, family planning was not solely responsible for all these gains. Major changes have also occurred with respect to other fertility determinants. People are waiting longer before they marry for the first time, and programs in the domains of education and rural development have certainly contributed to the improvement in demographic trends. These factors critically affect the structure of a country's population and the willingness of individuals to practice contraception.

The national program is most distinguished by its total integration as an essential component of basic health care. Indeed, the mother-and-child program is one of its most important elements.

The most fundamental feature of Moroccan family planning however is that it is based on freedom of individuals and couples to decide for themselves how many children to have and when to procreate. The principal tool of the program is information—provided face-to-face for the most part—about methods available and their suitability in our sociocultural environment. This is indisputable progress.

As a result of all these factors, more and more Moroccan men and women are opting for planned parenthood as a life style and a fully accepted personal choice. This trend is confirmed by statistics showing familiarity with contraceptive methods—99 percent of those queried in the 1992 national survey know at least one contraceptive method—and by the desire of the great majority of respondents (73.3 percent) to space their children.

Another no less important dimension, one of special concern to the state, is the demographic question. This dimension is intimately linked to the entire development process, especially in developing countries. The amount of resources required to facilitate harmonious development depends in large measure on a balance between demographic growth and economic development prospects. All the more since, in the Moroccan context, those prospects are closely tied to other development parameters, especially geoclimatic factors.

Overall, we can conclude that as the program has expanded over the years it has made considerable gains that must be preserved. We cannot be sure of succeeding without the clear and unequivocal commitment of everyone with a role to play in this domain. It is necessary to channel efforts now toward social sectors where program coverage is still incomplete—rural areas and housing developments on the outskirts of cities, for example. Quality of services and information must be improved and targeted to meet the diverse needs of men, women, young people, and other groups. The participation of all sectors concerned, including the private and voluntary sectors, is essential for continued expansion of the program and consolidation of gains.

Henceforth family planning cannot remain solely the concern of health professionals: It has become "everyone's business."

Draft Accord on Coastal Development With Spain
93AF0584C Rabat L'OPINION in French 2 May 93
pp 1, 3

[Article: "Signing of Morocco-Spain Draft Accord on Preparation of Integrated Action Plan for Development and Modernization of Morocco's Coastal Zone"]

[Text] In a ceremony held Friday at the Interior Ministry, Mr. Driss Basri, minister of interior and information, and Spain's ambassador in Rabat, Mr. Joaquin Ortega, signed a draft accord between the two kingdoms on preparation of an integrated action plan for the development and modernization of Morocco's coastal zone.

The signing of this draft accord was attended by Mr. Chaouki Serghini, the Interior Ministry's undersecretary of state for environmental protection; Mr. Lahcen Tagrit, director general for city planning, architecture, and national development; Mr. Driss Toulali, the Interior Ministry's director general for local communities; Mr. Othmane Bouabid, chief of cabinet; and the minister's top staff aides.

During the ceremony, Mr. Tagrit described the unique features of the project, which is one of a number of measures intended to strengthen existing cooperation between the kingdoms of Morocco and Spain in various domains.

The project focuses on designing an integrated short- and medium-term action plan to carry out numerous activities involving Moroccan and foreign partners.

To be implemented by a team of Moroccan and Spanish technicians, the project will provide opportunities for exchanges of information and study tours by the two sides and numerous training courses.

Dealing as it does with the Mediterranean coastal zone and its adjacent extensions in the interior (the provinces

of Tangiers, Tetouan, Larache, Chefchaouen, Al Houcima, Nador, Oujda, Taounate, and Taza), it will consolidate the northern provinces socioeconomic development program announced at Fes by His Majesty King Hassan II.

Mr. Joaquin Ortega took the floor to express his government's satisfaction regarding the project, which reflects the Moroccan and Spanish commitment to strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation already existing between the two kingdoms.

He added that this project fits into the northern provinces development program, which has excited the interest not only of Moroccan authorities but also of the EEC countries, particularly Spain, which with this initiative (he said) reaffirms its willingness to contribute directly and effectively to consolidating cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Driss Basri for his part expressed his great satisfaction at the signing of this accord creating a framework for cooperation between the kingdoms of Morocco and Spain. He emphasized the project will be useful not only by virtue of the heavy funding earmarked for its realization but also because of studies to be conducted that will yield positive benefits in other areas.

According to the minister, the action plan will also be of interest to countries that have expressed willingness to contribute to the overall development program for the Rif region.

Mr. Driss Basri also noted the unique importance of the accord as giving concrete expression to the commitment of the two governments to cooperation and to the further strengthening of the Morocco-Spain friendship and cooperation treaty, for the benefit of the two peoples and two states under the wise and enlightened leadership of His Majesty Hassan II and His Majesty Juan Carlos I.

The minister noted that the signing of the draft agreement coincides with the visit to Morocco of a mission of EEC experts commissioned to carry out a study on the very regions covered by the accord. Spain's initiative will open the way for other European Community countries, a fact that cannot fail to give new impetus to Morocco-Europe cooperation in the widest sense of the term.

UGTM Faults Prison for Illness of Member
93AF0584A Rabat L'OPINION in French 29 Apr 93
pp 1, 4

[Text of letter from UGTM (General Union of Moroccan Workers) secretary general Abderrazak Afif to the secretary general of the Consultative Council on Human Rights: "Deteriorating Health of Brother Driss Laghniyi"]

[Text] Recently transferred to Sale prison, Brother Driss Laghniyi, a member of the UGTM [General Union of Moroccan Workers] executive bureau, there continues to

suffer from an illness that is weakening his physical condition. Because prison officials have refused to permit any visits to Brother Laghnimi, the UGTM has sent a letter to the secretary general of the Consultative Council on Human Rights asking him to allow the trade union central to visit this labor militant accompanied by a union-selected physician, as observance of the most elementary human rights standards requires.

Herewith follows the translation of this letter:

"Given the substantial deterioration in the physical condition of Mr. Driss Laghnimi, member of the UGTM executive bureau, owing to a malady contracted at Kenitra central prison, following which he was transferred to Sale prison, a fact that gives rise to concern his condition may worsen further;

"Given that we have been unable, despite our numerous requests, to see him;

"We have the honor of asking you to make it possible for us to visit the individual concerned accompanied by a physician chosen by our organization, and also to facilitate visits by his UGTM union brothers, as observance of human rights standards requires.

"While we await your reply, Mr. Secretary General, please accept this assurance of our consideration and respect.

"Abderrazak Afilal, secretary general."

Tangiers: Minister Pleads for Water Conservation
93WN0431Y Rabat *L'OPINION* in French 16 Apr 93
pp 1, 4

[Article: "Water Shortage in North Near 88 Percent, Says Mohamed Kabbaj"]

[Text] The water shortage reported for 1993 in the Nord [northern] region that includes Tangiers was on the order of 88 percent, as measured at the Benbatouta Dam that provides potable water to the provincial capital, according to Mr. Mohamed Kabbaj, minister for public works, vocational and cadre training.

In a press conference following the opening session of the 7th meeting of the Higher State Council, Mr. Kabbaj noted that the city of Tangiers has equipment that can retain up to 200,000 cubic meters per day, while the city's potable water needs rarely exceed 100,000 cubic meters per day.

The effects of the drought afflicting Tangiers this year are the worst in about seventy years, said the minister, observing that consumption of potable water is far higher in Tangiers than in any other Moroccan city. Mr. Kabbaj said the cause of the water shortage in the capital of the province overlooking the strait [i.e., Gibraltar] is the decrepit condition of the water conduits, which authorities are working tirelessly to renovate.

Concerning the effects of the drought at the national level, the minister indicated that Morocco, which is having an unusually harsh dry season this year, has not been hit as hard as other nearby countries to the east and north, despite the extensive water resources and material means these countries enjoy.

On the subject of water rates, the minister said Morocco is a country where water is less expensive, adding that our country was the first to apply the principle of "waste more, pay more."

Morocco has a large amount of equipment for transferring water from regions with surplus rainfall to those with shortages, added Mr. Kabbaj, citing the examples of Casablanca—a city that gets its water from Fouarat, Bouregreg, and our Rabli—Tiznit, whose water comes from Agadir, and Tan Tan, which gets its potable water from Goulimina.

Responding to a question about potable water supplies to rural areas, the minister emphasized this is a task for local governments, noting that only 15 percent of those living in rural areas get potable water from the state, compared to 90 percent of urban dwellers.

It is expected that 80 percent of the rural population will have potable water by the year 2010, Mr. Kabbaj said.

Last, the minister pleaded for rational consumption of potable water, as advocated in the consciousness-raising campaigns launched by his department with the help of the national media.

At the press conference, Mr. Oulad Cherif, director of rural equipment at the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, indicated Morocco's existing infrastructure is capable of permanently irrigating 880,000 hectares, including 650,000 hectares irrigated using modern methods.

He said agriculture is the biggest user of water and urged this sector to pay more attention to water conservation.

Consequences of Drought; Appeal for Support
93WN0431Z Rabat *L'OPINION* in French 6 May 93
pp 1, 4

[Article: "Agriculture: Outlook for 1993"]

[Text] The 1992-93 agricultural year looks like a difficult one for Moroccan farmers. It is difficult because it follows on the heels of another dry year. Concern is growing because of the rainfall shortage. The small amount of actual rainfall has failed to water the right places at the right time. Crops now under cultivation, especially cereals and pasturage, have failed to show normal growth.

Water levels at the dams have reached alarmingly low levels.

Water is being allocated parsimoniously to irrigated fields, and there is already talk in the cities about "subsistence rationing" for fruit growers and forage producers. In some places, potable water has been cut off. As these lines are being written, the heavy rains of April seem to have revived people's hopes.

That said, what is the current situation in the Moroccan countryside?

Except in irrigated fields, there is almost nothing to be harvested. The pastureland cannot support livestock for much longer. Owing to lack of water, pasture grasses have shown little stamina.

Livestock is suffering, and the cost of cattle feed has reached frightful levels. The cost of a truss of straw has never dropped below 25 dirhams. Livestock prices have fallen dramatically.

The consequences of this situation are catastrophic. Most important, unemployment and exodus to the cities.

The authorities have not ignored this situation. Workyards have been opened around the country to absorb the shock; however, one might well ask how long these workyards will stay open. Will they be able to resorb a large enough portion of the rural exodus?

The government is organizing economic meetings in the country's seven regions. It is peddling an optimistic line and announcing projects to soften the effects of the drought. It is talking about billions.

On reflection, it can be seen the government's measures are short term in nature. It is waiting for the dry season to launch its projects in rural areas.

In Morocco, the "bour" [as published] zones have been subject to climatic vagaries since the dawn of time.

The authorities should never ignore them. A continuous and sustained program should be put in place for each region and implemented regardless of changeable weather conditions.

Let us hope the April inundation will at least save the spring crops, including some of the legumes, corn, and sunflower. A not insignificant portion of the country could thus be spared.

The Rif and sub-Rif regions seem to be suffering their second straight year of drought.

Everyone knows this large region's potential is enormous, but broad dissemination of information adapted to regional peculiarities and introduction of new crops could remake the landscape. The government is prepared to plow considerable sums of money into the region and is asking for EEC aid to develop it.

One can only hope this initiative is capable of triggering genuine social and economic take-off in the region.

It is easy enough to enact a decree banning cannabis cultivation, but educating inhabitants and changing their behavior patterns and attitudes is a process that will take years.

It will also require people of good will—people prepared to make sacrifices—to pull the region out of underdevelopment. Time and again this region has given Morocco saints and scholars, intrepid rebels notable for their exemplary sense of patriotism.

It must not be turned into a hotbed of trouble for the whole country. By developing the Rif and sub-Rif region, we will inevitably contribute to the development of cities like Tangiers, Larache, Tetouan, Chaouen, Fes, Taza, and Taounat.

Urban areas cannot develop harmoniously and flourish unless the interior prospers. So it is time to get down to the serious work of making the Rif prosperous.

In general, agricultural work is not as gratifying as it once was. The peasants are surely unhappy about their circumstances, and the authorities should spare no effort to help them maintain themselves in their environment. Appropriate steps should be taken, including:

- Forgiveness of interest for the 1991-92 and 1992-93 agricultural seasons, for farmers in debt to the regional agricultural credit banks;
- debt forgiveness for those who have borrowed from local banks;
- provision of adequate supplies of livestock feed including beet pulp, bran, barley and maize.

These provisions should be subsidized and protected from anything that might lead to speculation.

EGT Provides Equipment for Power Plant

93AF0564B Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French
23 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Paris (MAP)—Morocco has just signed an important contract with European Gaz Turbines (EGT)—the European subsidiary of the GEC Alsthom group—for an overall amount of approximately 81 million ECUs [European currency units] (610 million FF [French francs]) to supply equipment for a gas-fueled electric power plant of an installed capacity of 100 megawatts [MW] in Morocco.

In a statement published Thursday in Paris, GEC Alsthom explains that the power plant will be built at Tit Mellil, 15 km from Casablanca, for the National Electricity Office of Morocco. The power plant will help to meet the nation's urgent requirements in respect to development.

The statement emphasizes that under the terms of the contract, EGT will supply three MS-6001 gas turbines of a capacity of 34 MW each; the generators; and an installation for the treatment of the residual fuel, which will be the fuel of the central base. GEC Alsthom further states that the equipment will be provided through the Corporation for Technology and Research (SGTE), a

subsidiary of the Schneider group, the prime contractor for the power plant. The statement adds that the first section of the Tit Mellil power plant will be put into operation next fall.

This contract "demonstrates the client's confidence in EGT's ability to build power plants in the shortest possible time," the GEC Alsthom statement concludes.

Drop in Exports Said Due to Drought

*93AF0564A Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE
in French 23 Apr 93 p 3*

[Text] *The overall foreign trade results that we published last week are characterized by an increased deficit that is all the more troubling in that although it was caused by a sharp increase in imports, it was further aggravated by a 9-percent decline in exports: to 33.9587 billion DH [dirhams] from 37.2834 billion DH.*

The principal decline was recorded in food products, which decreased to 8.9663 billion DH from 10.4119 billion (down 13.9 percent), thereby underscoring the influence of weather conditions. For example, significant declines were recorded in citrus exports (down 19.6 percent), potatoes (down 25 percent), and fresh vegetables (down 11.5 percent). On the other hand, wheat imports more than doubled, to 2.7364 billion DH from 1.3142 billion!

An increase in sugar imports was also recorded (up 36 percent).

All sectors of economic activity except energy, however, were affected by the decline in exports.

The 14.5-percent decline in exports of phosphates and phosphate products (see Table 1) is especially deserving of attention.

In the hierarchy of exports, ready-to-wear clothing remains basically at the top, ahead of phosphoric acid, phosphates, and shellfish.

As for imports, petroleum has strengthened its primacy over wheat. It should be noted, however, that imports of equipment have increased significantly, including equipment for grinding and crushing, various kinds of machinery, and industrial vehicles.

The decline in imports of raw mineral products is caused by the reduction in sulfur purchases following the decline in sales of phosphate products.

**Table 1. Exports of Phosphates and Phosphate Products
(in millions of DH)**

Product	1991	1992
Phosphates	3,015.5	2,621.0
Fertilizers	3,316.1	2,445.8
P ₂ O ₅	3,716.0	3,424.9
Total	10,047.6	8,491.7

**Table 2. Principal Imports in 1992
(in millions of DH)**

Product	1991	1992
1. Crude oil	6,579.5	8,007.3
2. Wheat	1,314.2	2,736.4
3. Various machinery	2,460.7	2,711.9
4. Chemical products	2,529.3	2,393.4
5. Sulfur	2,191.1	1,829.2
6. Raw timber	1,342.9	1,665.9
7. Plastic materials	1,433.2	1,458.7
8. Grinding equipment	758.6	1,376.4
9. Industrial vehicles	1,219.8	1,311.0
10. Paper, cartons	1,016.5	1,114.5
11. Flats, sheet metal	1,015.9	1,100.4
12. Wire, rods	907.0	1,048.4
13. Iron and steels	1,142.4	869.2
14. Vehicles for tourism	1118.2	810.8
15. Sugar	592.7	808.0
16. Unprocessed vegetable oils	754.6	793.0
17. Medicines	645.2	750.3
18. Cotton textiles	869.5	737.5
19. Telephone equipment	1,137.3	710.9
20. Synthetic thread	710.5	680.0
21. Textile machines	749.3	652.4
22. Tea	526	630.7
23. Copper vessels	49.2	621.7
24. Tobacco products	673.6	564.9
25. Synthetic fibers	561.1	559.3
26. Aircraft	487.5	553.6
27. Cotton	669.0	539.0
28. Reciprocating engines	486.3	523.0
29. Soft coal	695.1	505.4
30. Oil gas	784.0	503.6

**Table 3. Principal Exports in 1992
(in millions of DH)**

Product	1991	1992
1. Ready-to-wear clothing	4,187.4	4,136.8
2. Phosphoric acid	3,716.0	3,424.9
3. Phosphates	3,015.5	2,621.0
4. Shellfish	2,729.4	2,500.1
5. Fertilizers	3,316.1	2,445.8
6. Hosiery	2,164.6	2,406.5
7. Citrus	1,819.0	1,461.5
8. Canned fish	1,347.1	1,360.4
9. Petroleum, lubricants	905.6	904.6

**Table 3. Principal Exports in 1992
(in millions of DH) (Continued)**

Product	1991	1992
10. Fresh fish	1,205.1	870.6
11. Canned vegetables	901.0	748.8
12. Footwear	707.3	560.2
13. Tomatoes	467.7	515.3
14. Cotton thread	289.1	322.1
15. Pulp	287.7	321.1
16. Carpeting	352.4	311.9
17. Fresh vegetables	370.5	312.4
18. Leather clothing	334.0	283.1
19. Potatoes	352.4	264.5
20. Copper fittings	234.7	256.8
21. Unrefined lead	274.7	246.9
22. Synthetic thread	213.3	206.0
23. Dried vegetables	175.6	202.3
24. Auto parts	228.2	197.8
25. Morocco leather	153.3	168.8

OMAN**Oil Minister Discusses Muscat OPEC Meeting**
93AE0485A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Apr 93
p 9

[Article by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani: Interview with Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, oil minister, by AL-HAYAH, place and date not given: "Gulf Countries Did Not Endorse Retaliatory Measures, and I Suggest a Progression of Prices in Order That They Not Remain a Target for Taxes"]

[Text] Muscat—Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, Omani oil minister and chairman of the OPEC and Independent Petroleum Exporting Countries [IPEC] Ministers Conference, defended the recommendations of the conference that was recently held in Muscat to avoid confrontation with consumer nations despite the recent proposals to impose new energy taxes.

He noted that the conference placed on record an obvious position and resentment towards this tax, but fended off the notion that the conference was an arena for flexing muscles. He warned consumer nations not to consider the "moderation" of oil producers a sign of weakness and an indicator of the lack of possible choices for producers in dealing with this tax. In an interview with AL-HAYAH, the Omani oil minister called for an increase in the existing price of oil to a fair and reasonable level, in order that [it] not remain a target for the imposition of taxes by the industrialized nations. Following is the text of the interview.

A Flexing of Muscles

[AL-HAYAH] There are those who criticize the conference's recommendations regarding the [hydro]carbon tax, suggesting that [the recommendations] were unspecific and unexpressive of an explicit and unambiguous stance towards oil producers in defense of their interests. In your capacity as conference chairman, what are your comments?

[al-Shanfari] My opinion differs from the criticism you alluded to because the joint communique issued by the conference and adopted by the ministers is unambiguous. In fact, the meeting was a success in that 30 oil-producing nations met to discuss this issue. The mood I grasped among all participants was one of resentment and dissatisfaction; however, everyone was insistent that the conference not revert to a "flexing of muscles" and a confrontation between oil-producing and oil-consuming nations.

This was the purpose for the meeting of 30 countries of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the group of independent oil-exporting countries outside OPEC known as IPEC.

The philosophy and objective of the meeting was the quest for conciliation between producer and consumer nations.

If anyone imagined or expected that our aim was to emerge with "confrontational" or "muscle-flexing" measures, then that person's expectations were incorrect and we cannot be held responsible. The conference was successful by virtue of the attendance of the large number of oil ministers for the first time, and through the agreement of all these countries on a feeling and expression of dissatisfaction with certain actions taken by consumer nations, in particular, the proposed energy taxes.

[AL-HAYAH] Are you of the opinion that OPEC's and IPEC's formation of a joint-action group to study energy taxes as recommended by the conference, is currently a sufficient measure to counter these taxes?

[al-Shanfari] I believe this is the first step. This group and its attendant technical committee will follow-up the matter. I believe that at the appropriate time, "every event will have its own explanation [all will become clear]." This committee will submit its recommendations at the next meeting, the venue of which has not yet been determined as.

As stated earlier, our main thrust was to bring about "conciliation" between producers and consumers. We do not wish, and neither we nor the producing countries have, any special intention to resort to "violence" or "threats," because our approach is one of conciliation and dialogue.

I would hope that this moderate policy is not exploited by the other side, because it is dismaying when some interpret a peaceful method of conducting business as a

"point of weakness." I do not believe this is a weakness; rather, I believe is a form of wisdom. In other words, that we, as producers, conduct business in this manner.

[AL-HAYAH] Some would interpret the moderate position of oil producers on the matter of further dialogue with consumers, as due to the realization that options in responding to the energy tax are limited and of little clout.

[al-Shanfari] I regret to say that this is a harsh conclusion for oil-producing countries. I do not believe it accurate and consumer nations should not view the matter in such light. I mentioned earlier that the need for cooperation and coordination exists. It is imperative that all parties be inclined to mutual understanding and conciliation, because today's world economy is vastly interrelated. Any jolt to the dollar, for example, would affect us in Oman. A 10-percent slump in the value of the dollar connotes a 10-percent decrease in the sultanate's revenues. This state of affairs applies to Gulf countries, especially since the price of oil, as is known, is assessed in accordance with the dollar. All of these matters are considered by Gulf countries and the other oil-producing nations. Therefore, it follows that producer nations do not wish to enter the labyrinths of confrontation, and they consider dialogue and negotiation more advantageous and useful for consumers and producers alike.

[AL-HAYAH] Isn't it true that the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, through the Oil Cooperation Committee, which groups oil ministers and met a few weeks ago in Jeddah, decided to impose countermeasures to the [hydro]carbon tax, such as imposing customs taxes on imports from the United States and EC?

[al-Shanfari] It can be said that agreement was reached not on procedures, but on recommendations, which urge continuing dialogue with consumer nations and explaining the Gulf's point of view. However, recommendations to establish procedures, such as imposing taxes on imports, did not occur. The emphasis was on continuing dialogue between producers and consumers.

[AL-HAYAH] There are those who see a reason for industrialized consumer nations to continue to "impose taxes" on oil, unless its price comes down. Do you agree that producer nations could increase the price of oil to keep it from becoming the target of tax-imposition measures by the consumer nations?

[al-Shanfari] This notion is correct. In my speech to the conference I mentioned that as long as oil prices remain low, oil products will be the focus of special consideration for the imposition of taxes. It is these taxes that may be utilized to solve the economic problems of consumer nations. Thus I think that the price of this substance or commodity be commensurate with and linked to the world economy and oil-consumption rates. I neither advocate nor demand a sharp increase in prices because of the potential effect on the world's economy.

In reality, oil-producing nations have supported the international economy and done it a service for the last few years. If the oil-producing nations resort to violence and sharply increase prices, then the world's economy could collapse and major industrialized nations harmed, as was the case years ago when the price of a barrel of oil was \$30 to \$33. Even oil-producing nations were subsequently affected by the decline in the demand for oil. We do not wish everyone to repeat this mistake again. On the other hand, what we do ask for is a reasonable price, which progresses with the growth in world economy, be established, in view of the fact that if oil prices continue to decrease from the present level, oil products will forever be a target for the imposition of exorbitant taxes by the consumer nations.

SAUDI ARABIA

Banks Establish, Comply With Required Standards

93LH0002B London *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* in Arabic
23 Apr 93 p 13

[Article by Dr. Henry 'Azzam, economic adviser to National Commercial Bank in Jeddah: "Saudi Banks Exceed the 8 Percent Basel Commission Requirement. A Shared ATM System Boosts Fund Utilization in the Domestic Market"]

[Text] Observers of Gulf banking developments would note that the position of Gulf banks is constantly improving, especially in Saudi Arabia. Bank balance sheets are getting stronger thanks to bank deposit growth, both in local and in foreign currencies, larger loans, and [higher] profitability. Deposit growth has been experienced as well by offshore banking units in Bahrain where deposits climbed in 1992 to \$70 billion from \$53 billion at year-end 1991. This indicates the return of some capital that left the region during the Gulf crisis. The Kuwaiti dinar has recently joined in Gulf currency exchange arrangements in order to achieve stability vis-a-vis other currencies of the region after it was exposed to the shock of the Gulf crisis. The GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states have been coordinating the exchange rates of their currencies in order to preserve their stability vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar. This does not mean, however, that a single Gulf currency with a uniform exchange rate will emerge, that Gulf banks will be allowed to open branches in all countries of the region, or that a common Gulf market will be established. There is a specific program to accomplish all those targets by 1999.

Banking sectors in the Gulf are clearly undergoing a period of transformation as is evidenced by strong balance sheets brought about by stricter oversight and better reporting, and by higher profitability as a result of general improvement in economic conditions even though the situation differs from one country to another. The banking sector is performing well in Saudi Arabia, the UAE [United Arab Emirates], Bahrain, and Qatar

but things are different in Kuwait because of the circumstances it experienced. It is hoped that Kuwaiti banking activity will begin to recover once the debt problem is resolved. Generally speaking, the number of banking institutions that offer traditional banking services remains relatively high and exceeds the combined needs of the Gulf states. Some institutions may therefore be forced in the future to merge or to specialize since [the demand for] banking services does not call for that many institutions. This is not the case with consulting services, however, because there is a market for a larger number of institutions that specialize in those types of services. It is our observation that many such services are still being offered by foreign banks.

In view of those problems, monetary authorities in the countries of the region have recently begun to review a number of banking laws and regulations in order to increase the role and efficacy of monetary authorities in supervising and regulating banks, appointing bank managers, strengthening and enforcing audit and inspection agencies, bolstering cooperation among those agencies, and encouraging mergers and combinations among small and weak banks.

Standards of Adequacy

Among the efforts to adapt to the new developments and standards that prevail in the six GCC states is the need to adopt a comprehensive program for evaluating capital adequacy as measured by the degree of risk to bank assets and to establish definition standards for capital. Such a program is rooted in the internationally accepted standards of the Bank of International Settlements [BIS], with slight modifications for a better fit to the banking environment in the Gulf.

After those efforts were obstructed for a while by the Gulf war, it was decided that all licensed Gulf banks undertake on a quarterly basis the preparation of models that would illustrate capital adequacy as measured by the degree of asset risk. The implementation of that decision already began last March. It is to be noted here that the adequacy ratio is generally high among GCC banks and that most of which exceed the 8 percent BIS capital standard.

The targeted standard recommends that a ratio of capital to probable risky assets (including the risk to items not stated in balance sheets) be maintained at the internationally accepted 8-percent minimum. Bank capital is to be composed of near-equal shares of basic capital (which includes paid capital represented by common shares, statutory reserves, carried-forward profits, and net profits or losses for the commercial term) and supplementary capital (which includes unstated reserves, general allocations, and subordinated debt). The system further stipulates that subordinated capital is not to exceed 100 percent of basic capital and that subordinated debt is not to exceed 50 percent of basic capital.

The system also sets the credit ceiling for customers of banks in the GCC states at between 10 and 40 percent of capital.

Four Asset Categories

Assets have been classified into four categories in accordance with their potential degree of risk (which was set at 0 percent, 10 percent, 20 percent, 50 percent, and 100 percent) along the line of similar weights used to measure credit risk. In order to assess the risk of items that are not recorded in the balance sheets, the following conversion formula should be used:

100 percent for direct credit substitutes, 50 percent for transaction-related commitments, and 20 percent for self-liquidating commercial commitments. The risk of foreign exchange and interest rate exchange contracts [?] will likewise be weighted on the basis of Basel Agreement standards.

The standards applied here utilize two groups of credit risk to nations. Borrowing by governments and banks of GCC states, by member-countries of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD], and by other countries that have special IMF arrangements in accordance with the General Agreement on Credit—all have minimal credit risk and pose no risk. Regional development organizations to which the GCC states subscribe are to be treated on par with other development organizations. Lending to all other countries [is assumed to carry] full risk. Accordingly, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar were placed in the same risk category as OECD countries even though only Saudi Arabia is classified by BIS in that risk category.

Modifications to BIS standards cover secured loan standards. In order to make up for legal deficiencies in providing full support for foreclosing on mortgaged residential property, Gulf banks and monetary agencies have assessed the risk of loans secured by residential real estate at 100 percent rather than at the 50 percent recommended by BIS.

Numerous Gulf banks, in order to improve performance and keep in step with worldwide banking developments, are preparing their year-end statements in accordance with standards set by the International Accounting Standards (IAS) Commission and by the Amman-based Arab Society of Chartered Accountants. Those standards require banks to state their asset distribution by region and by sector and mandate strict requirements for the disclosure of nonperforming debt allocations. An overall glance at banking sector activity in countries of the region would show that monetary authorities in Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE require banks to apply international IAS accounting standards even though their exact wording varies from one country to another.

Several Gulf states, as part of their banking reform policies, have begun to implement regulations to thwart the laundering of drug money through their domestic as

well as foreign banking channels. The measures, which the central banks have begun to adopt, entail specific mandatory requirements to identify customers and their persons on the basis of official or reliable documents and to refrain from opening accounts under assumed names. The banks are also required to carefully examine financial transactions and to pay special attention to unusual arrangements and to those that lack well-defined legal or economic functions. The banks are to scrutinize the objectives of such transactions to the extent possible and to submit their written findings whenever needed to help auditors, inspectors, and law-enforcement agencies.

The Regulatory Environment and Banking Structural Developments

The Saudi banking system is overseen by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), which was created in 1953. The banking oversight law vests SAMA with authority to license, regulate, and inspect the activities of the 12 commercial banks operating in the kingdom. Even though the law does not precisely explain the agency's authority and competence in dealing with financial charges and claims, the agency nevertheless exercises tight rein over the banking system and is known for its strict regulatory standards. Commercial banks report their financial positions to SAMA on a regular basis and are periodically audited by inspectors of the agency.

SAMA has expanded its oversight role and has widened the degree of information detail mandated in bank financial statements, particularly information relevant to bank solvency, degree of exposure to foreign exchange risks, and activities not recorded in the balance sheets. However, these new reporting requirements that call for a higher degree of detail in public statements were criticized by some Saudi banks on the pretext that some of the information required is strategic in nature and should therefore be held confidential.

Oversight standards for classifying bad or nonperforming loans are characterized by their flexibility but vary from bank to bank in the kingdom. The Saudi American bank, for instance, writes off a loan when the interest on it is 90 days past due. By contrast, other banks generally apply the 180-day rule even though they consider each loan on its own merits.

SAMA implemented early in 1992 a comprehensive program for capital adequacy that is compatible with BIS recommendations. The capital of most Saudi banks has exceeded the 8 percent requirement established by the Basel Commission. Riyad Bank, Saudi American Bank, Saudi British Bank, Saudi French Bank, National Arab Bank, and United Saudi Commercial Bank—all increased their capitalization in 1991/92 as a prelude to expanding their operations and diversifying their services. Regardless of the direct reasons Saudi banks had for increasing their capital, which are important in themselves, there is general agreement that SAMA's banking policies far transcend considerations specific to

individual banks and strive to give the Saudi banking system a larger and more comprehensive role in Saudi economic development. It is to be noted that the volume of deposits has increased by more than 60 percent in less than a year. This is attributed to the return of capital from abroad after the Gulf war, supported by expansion in Saudi market activity. The increase in deposits had to be matched by an increase in capitalization since Saudi laws mandate that bank deposit liabilities should not exceed 6.5 times the total of reserves and paid capital combined. Banks that achieve such surpluses are mandated by law to increase their capitalization or to place 50 percent of their deposits with SAMA.

SAMA has a long history of supporting and bolstering the banking system and of standing behind Saudi banks in times of crisis. The agency contributed a share [to the capital] of Riyad Bank in 1961 and has since assisted a number of smaller banks to various degrees. Its strong support of the banking system was evidenced during the Gulf crisis as it dealt with the situation wisely and competently.

Saudi banks enjoy a high degree of liquidity, which they most frequently deposit in banks abroad. Treasury notes were issued in November 1991 as a substitute for bank credit deposit accounts, which became available in 1984. Treasury notes, along with government development bonds whose issue began in 1988 to finance the budget deficit, are credited with providing investment vessels that absorb large portions of excess bank liquidity. Banks in need of liquidity can tap SAMA's REPO [Repurchase Agreement] facility, which allows them to sell a maximum of 75 percent of [their] treasury notes for short periods of time and then repurchase them from the agency. Banks are also entitled to repurchase a maximum of 25 percent of the development bonds they hold after selling them to SAMA for periods ranging from one to 28 days. A secondary market exists for notes and bonds and SAMA is diligently working to expand those markets.

In the quest for improving bank oversight through a reasonable degree of coordination and uniformity in the monitoring and recording of banking operations, SAMA has established, in cooperation with local auditors, a uniform accounting standard for commercial banks in the kingdom. Those standards are compatible with worldwide accounting rules even though the latter may have been slightly modified to better suit domestic banking practices. The new accounting rules apply to all commercial banks in the kingdom (with the exception of cambists) regardless of their juridical entity and whether they are founded as stock companies or as unlimited liability companies. To enable SAMA to exercise its oversight, Saudi banks are to report to it monthly on the combined financial position of each bank's local and external branches.

A most important development for banks operating in the kingdom is a SAMA 1985 regulation mandating that

all stock transactions by banks be handled via an inter-related system of telephone and telex communications. SAMA introduced to this system a number of reforms in support of stock trades. The most significant change occurred in May 1988 with the inauguration of a central stock trading hall but the new system was abolished less than a month later. A new fully computerized trading system called the Electronic Information System for Securities was introduced in 1990. It allows more flexibility and provides more liquidity in the marketplace. The Saudi stock market differs from other markets in that it has no brokers. Banks are not allowed to act as market-makers by trading in securities to their own accounts. The Saudi Stock Registry Company was founded in 1985 with a capital of 11 million rials. The company, which is equally owned by all operating banks, acts as a central bureau for the registration of all traded securities.

The mechanics of stock trading may be summarized as follows:

Those wishing to buy or sell securities would go to a bank branch and fill out a form indicating the number to be traded and their preferred price. [Prospective] buyers must pay the full purchase price in advance. Banks would then attempt to match buyers and sellers first through their own branch networks then in conjunction with central coordinating units of other banks through SAMA's clearing chamber. Neither futures transactions nor postdated checks are allowed. Banks may charge fees of no more than 1 percent of transaction value to be shared equally by buyers and sellers.

Computerization

The automated trading system has been recently augmented. It is now possible on the same network to link several bank branches throughout the kingdom and allow them access to the Saudi Stock Registry Company and to SAMA's Central Coordination and Clearing Unit. This has helped expedite the transfer of securities, a process once handled by mail, and has increased market efficiency and efficacy. This system is expected to become similar to the NASDAQ over-the-counter system in the United States and will be an appropriate alternative for a central stock trading base [exchange].

Another important Saudi market development was the transformation from cash purchases to the use of credit cards and electronic payment at the points of sale, as is the case in the markets of advanced countries, rather than heavy reliance on checks and other traditional means.

We must digress at this point to touch on the impact of the ATM network introduced in 1990. Banks, according to SAMA sources, issued more than 750,000 cards by the end of 1992 and the frequency of client card utilization has increased to four times a month. SAMA figures show that more than 50 percent of current transactions are handled through banks other than those who issued the card in use.

SPAN, an ATM-extension system for electronic transfers at the point of sale, is expected to become operational in midyear. Banks are rushing to complete the various systems and technical preparations they need to link their computers with SAMA's central system and with the terminals to be installed in stores. The point of sale system will be later enhanced to allow direct bank access to the terminals they install at client-stores when the card used is issued by that particular bank. This will make it unnecessary to go to the central computer to authorize the transfer of funds from customer accounts to the merchant's account. It is understood that ATM-member banks usually pay one fee to the central computer for each completed transaction and another fee to the bank if the sales computer is used. This will benefit banks that control the more-frequented shopping sites.

SAMA anticipates that banks will install more than 10,000 automated-financing machines [ATMs] within the first five years of operating the new system. It seems, however, that this service will not be limited to domestic card use within Saudi Arabia. There is a move to link this network's systems with other international payment [credit] card networks and systems such as VISA and Mastercard. The parties concerned are currently negotiating relevant bilateral agreements. Such linkages would allow network cardholders to also use their cards at thousands of shops, hotels, and shopping malls throughout the world and would likewise enable VISA, Mastercard, and other cardholders to use them on the ATM network within the kingdom. Saudi banks will eventually combine the various cards—i.e., credit, discount, automated payment, and automated transfers cards, into a single card that can be used both inside the kingdom and abroad.

Saudi Arabia is perhaps one of the few countries in the world that own a single national automated banking and transfer network that encompasses all banks. It is customary in most countries for networks to be established by groups of banks to facilitate exchanges among themselves. The end result is numerous such networks with different standards or no standard at all. SAMA is to be given credit for having devised since the mid-1980's a comprehensive technological [automation] plan for the banking sector and for working diligently in concert with the banks to ensure that their individual strategies are compatible with its plan. It is also to be credited for establishing clear technical specifications, which have been agreed to by the banks, to be applied equally to all banks according to SAMA's plan for the banking sector.

The Saudi payments system will doubtless gain efficacy with future applications and expansions. SAMA is planning a shared system for automated transfers in order to organize settlement operations, promote banking liquidity, and control risk. All this should boost fund utilization in the domestic market.

Second 'UKAZ Manager in 2 Years Resigns
923AE0478A London *AL-HAYAH* in Arabic 31 Mar 93
p 11

[Article by 'Umar Jastinyah]

[Text] Jeddah—Iyad Madani, general manager of the 'UKAZ Press and Publishing Institute, has submitted his resignation. He said that the resignation, while stating the reasons for it, is his second resignation in two years. He submitted his resignation to members of the board of directors on 20 March, following a 15 March meeting of the Institute's board. At this meeting the board reviewed the results of the subscription to increase the Institute's capital, which was launched early last year when the capital was increased from 13 million Saudi rials to 38 million rials. Several decisions were adopted that provided that no subscription exceeding the decided increase is acceptable, and unless the subscription was actually received before the expiry of the period fixed for receiving it, 18 February. Additionally, it was decided to accept subscriptions by three board members whose subscriptions were received after the fixed date in question. It was further decided to allot a prominent board member 4,455 shares, despite the fact that he withdrew his subscription in an official letter.

The resignation, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, states that the recent decision discriminates against members by giving some of them rights that are denied to others. From Mr. Madani's viewpoint, no subscriptions were supposed to be accepted after the due date, or the extended due date. The pledging members should have been given a final settlement date to pay for their shares, with the balance in both cases to be supplemented from the Institute's 1992 profits. This is to be distributed to the Institute's members in accordance with their current share in the Institute's capital.

AL-HAYAH has learned that 'UKAZ Institute for Press and Publishing reached 28.5 million rials, of which 25 million rials will be recapitalized.

The 'UKAZ Institute for Press and Publishing has been increasing its capital with the aim of increasing its press plants in two areas inside Saudi Arabia, the first in the northeast (ad-Dammam city), and the second in the south (Abha town), linked to a satellite system, with a total cost estimated at 10 million Saudi rials. But the project now is linked to increasing the Institute's capital, which is now facing some obstacles, since only a few shareholders have paid the assessed increase.

The Institute's board of directors recently approved accepting four new members in the general assembly, three of whom represent the editorial board of the 'UKAZ newspaper published by the Institute. These are 'Ali Mudhish, Qaynan al-Ghamidi, and Ayman Habib. This is the first time that such a step has been taken since the al-Yamamah Press Institute took a similar step some time ago. Walid Qattan has been appointed director general of marketing.

According to the Saudi press institute's regulation that was established in accordance with royal decree number 62 dated 24 Sha'ban 1383 HG, January 1964 AD, Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Hassun, deputy director general of the Institute, will carry out the tasks of the director general until he is officially designated for the post, or a suitable substitute is chosen.

In his resignation, Mr. Madani categorically rejects discussing the question of his resignation at the next general assembly meeting. He also asked that the Institute's chartered accountant be charged with preparing a financial statement for the Institute, showing that he has discharged his obligations toward it. According to members of the Institute's general assembly, whom AL-HAYAH contacted, there will be no modification of the capital increase in order to keep abreast of media developments. It will be increased either according to the earlier proposals, by borrowing, by putting the matter to the shareholders, or by any other means that the members of the general assembly and the Institute's board of directors might approve.

TUNISIA

Preparations for Second RCD Congress Under Way

93AF0585B Tunis *LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE*
in French 21 Apr 93 p 7

[Article: "Mr. Karoui Tells Commissions RCD (Rally for Culture and Democracy) Strength Lies in Unity"]

[Text] At the Casbah Monday evening, Mr. Hamed Karoui, vice president of the RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy] and prime minister, kicked off the work of the national study commissions appointed to prepare for the second congress of the RCD, a congress that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has called for 19 to 31 July and dubbed the "perseverance congress."

Present for the event were RCD Secretary General Chedli Neffati and the members of the Political Bureau.

The vice president of the RCD emphasized in his speech the importance of the role given to the national commissions, which are called upon to examine in greater depth the reports, recommendations, and proposals submitted by the regional commissions and the results of deliberations at the base, to assess the applicability of the resolutions adopted by the "Salvation Congress" and the progress made in various domains, and to enrich the ideas and approaches so the upcoming congress will be a landmark event worthy of the vanguard position maintained by the RCD as a party deeply and strongly rooted in Tunisia, a party that ably and competently assumes governmental responsibilities and works to enshrine the cultural advances initiated by President Ben Ali.

Mass Base

Mr. Hamed Karoui reaffirmed the determination of the head of state and the RCD to continue deepening reform, consolidate gains already made, and create all the conditions required to meet the challenge of unified development, protect the invulnerability and stability of the country, and consolidate its glorious image and influence on the international scene.

He said the meetings of the national study commissions, building on the local and regional phase of preparations for the congress, illustrate vividly the democratic option that President Ben Ali has laid out and made one of the fundamental constants of RCD political action. In that connection, he noted a broad path has been cleared for the base and for all the party's energies and talents to participate in this serious and constructive debate and to integrate all of the RCD's activities both now and in the future (see *LA PRESSE* of 20 April 1993, p 1).

Commission Reports

The RCD vice president added that the "perseverance congress" will also be an event whose repercussions will extend beyond Tunisia, given the success it has enjoyed in an international environment marked by repeated upheavals and crises.

He underlined the need for serious and thorough reflection on the themes to be debated by the national study commissions, whose recommendations and reports will serve as basic reference documents for the work of the congress and the preparing of its resolutions.

Mr. Karoui emphasized the great importance President Ben Ali attaches to strict observance of the resolutions adopted by the RCD congress, noting that one of the causes of the crisis that racked the Destourian Socialist Party [PSD] was precisely its failure to respect the decisions adopted by its organs and its congresses.

In the same vein, calling for RCD militants to persevere in their efforts to build further on successes achieved to date, Mr. Karoui observed that the fundamental changes in the political, economic, social, cultural, and educational domains have been implemented in accord with resolutions passed by the "Salvation Congress."

Democracy and Development

Mr. Karoui also underscored the correlation between democracy and development. "Just as much as we are concerned to enshrine democracy within the RCD and in the country as a whole, we also strive to achieve harmonious development of all regions and all social classes, as reflected in the national structural adjustment plan—an economic plan designed by Tunisian experts independent of any external prescriptions or constraints," said the prime minister, drawing attention to the constant efforts made in tandem with the adjustment program to soften as much as possible any adverse side effects. He said that what proves the plan is 100-percent Tunisian

are the absence of wage freezes, the nonimplementation of absolute truth in pricing, the increase in social transfers, and the efforts made to ameliorate the condition of the neediest, eliminate pockets of poverty, and to rescue blighted zones from their present state of destitution.

"The RCD is the heir of the Constitutional Liberal Party," he said. "It is working to establish true social justice based on the firm conviction that because Tunisians helped win the country's independence they are entitled to enjoy the fruits of independence."

In that connection, Mr. Karoui called on the ad hoc study commissions to focus on economic and social questions and to explore prospects for the future, especially with regard to financing of welfare programs and getting social assistance to those who really need it.

Social Legislation

The prime minister said one of the biggest issues is unemployment, which requires radical solutions in terms of continued development, implementation of job-creation projects, and promotion of vocational training. "Our progressive social legislation, in which we take pride, must necessarily take into account even more than in the past the interests of all social groups, including the unemployed," said Mr. Karoui, adding that this line of action is sustained by the reciprocal trust prevailing between all the social partners and by their complete faith in President Ben Ali.

After discussing the importance of paying sufficient attention to education, culture, and young people and children, the RCD vice president called for deeper reflection on the status of families, especially since President Ben Ali has decided to create a special commission on women's issues.

"It is not enough for us to have female cadres in high-level positions," he said. "We must also make more efforts on the ground to educate women in various fields and make them aware of their role in public life, their rights, and their obligations, as well as the perils that could threaten those gains."

Women's Role

Mr. Karoui asserted that the future of civil society cannot be guaranteed without taking into account the female half of society. In that connection, he reminded his listeners of the revolutionary measures taken by President Ben Ali on behalf of women and the family.

He underlined the need to promote discussion of the role of the news media and maximum transparency and truth in that sector and to ensure that it serves the highest national values.

After describing the transformation of RCD press organs, the prime minister emphasized the need to continue efforts to further improve standards in this sector.

Mr. Karoui concluded by observing that the long string of successes that have boosted Tunisia's prestige and influence stem from the choices made by President Ben Ali and his positions on Maghrebian, Arab, regional and international issues, and that Tunisia's strength lies in all Tunisians leaving the spirit of "tribalism" behind and closing ranks in support of their president and the RCD.

[box, p 7]

Vanguard Position

Monday marked the commencement of deliberations by the National Study Commissions faced with the task of preparing for the second RCD Congress. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has made perseverance the watchword for the congress, which will unfold under the chairmanship of Mr. Hamed Karoui, vice president of the RCD and prime minister.

Mr. Chedli Neffati, RCD secretary general, gave an opening address highlighting the extreme importance the RCD's second congress assumes, as the first ordinary congress since the Change. In that connection, he commented on the role of the national preparatory commissions, noting that commencement of their deliberations marks an advanced stage along the path, as the president underlined in his 6 December 1992 speech to RCD cadres and militants. He recalled that the initial preparatory phases at the rank-and-file level were completed successfully and on schedule, commanding the democratic constitutional base [of the RCD] for its constructive contributions, which were now in the hands of the national commissions.

The secretary general described the commissions as an elite whose composition reflects the RCD's standing as a mass party open to diverse social groups, noting too that the small size of the commissions in comparison to the immense reservoir of skills and cadres with expertise in every scientific domain is based on the fact that the national commissions are not the only suitable vehicle for militants or for action to enrich the scope of the RCD. The commissions, he added, must show themselves worthy of the trust placed in them as constitutional democrats to meet the many opportunities and challenges of the future and in so doing consolidate their party's vanguard positions on the national scene. Discussing the work schedule of the national study commissions, Mr. Neffati said deliberations will conclude on 15 June, with their conclusions to be submitted to the 9th session of the Central Committee. He said the basic documents, notably the resolutions that came out of the Salvation Congress, hold out promise that debates will focus on the RCD's most fundamental principles and options, the soundness and relevance of which have been broadly demonstrated and illustrated by past performance and cumulative gains. He observed in this context

that the "perseverance congress" will undoubtedly be a major national event, not only because of the objective internal and external circumstances surrounding it, but most of all because of its implications for the future, given the vanguard responsibility that the RCD has assumed as trustee for the future of a stable, peaceful, and prosperous Tunisia. [end box]

Agricultural Problems in Kairouan Detailed 93AF0585C Tunis *LE TEMPS* in French 13 Apr 93 p 2

[Article by K. Neji: "Development Challenges in Kairouan"]

[Text] Kairouan has some 322 million cubic meters of surface-water resources, exploitation of which is currently sufficient to irrigate 43,456 hectares [ha], in addition to 5,487 ha to be opened in the very near future (2,230 ha at El Haouareb, 2,807 at Sidi Saad II, 450 at El Ouja and Ain El Bidha), for a total of 48,943 ha, or one-fifth of the country's irrigable land.

Insufficient Production

Despite all this hydraulic potential, agricultural production in the region remains below the national average. Several factors are responsible for this situation, including poor profit margins on the small operations (generally under 5 ha) that account for 40 percent of all farming. Other factors are excessive subdividing of parcels and inadequate maintenance of existing farms. Also, there is a flagrant imbalance between the needs of livestock (some 420,000 ewes) and regional forage unit production. The average shortfall is 100 million forage units per year.

Yet another factor is the illogical use made of irrigated areas, only about 80 percent of which are generally in cultivation, not to mention wind and water erosion, which has degraded at least 300,000 ha, 180,000 so seriously as to be in need of urgent intervention. Forest cover represents only 5.3 percent of the governorate's surface area (657,700 ha), though some 25,000 ha could be reforested.

Finance Problems

Another important factor impeding agricultural development in the region, one that certainly deserves mention, is lack of private investment, which has failed to keep up with the state's efforts to encourage and promote this sector. In addition to the fact that except for BNA [National Agricultural Bank], bank participation in financing agricultural projects is almost nonexistent, agricultural production is hampered by a number of constraints including the lack of agrofood industries and nonexistence of service cooperatives, which play an essential role in solving problems of provisioning, marketing, and delivery of services.

Regional Plan

To overcome socioeconomic constraints and cope with fragile economic conditions: That is the objective of the regional agricultural development action plan during the period of the Eighth Plan. Success will require safeguarding and protecting the natural environment, mobilizing and optimizing water resource utilization, while at the same time working to improve the cultivation ratio and intensify production in irrigated areas. To promote and improve productivity in the sector, fruit cultivation will be encouraged and increased.

New Identification Card System Implemented

93AF0585A Tunis *LE TEMPS* in French 20 Apr 93
pp 1, 3

[Article by Faouzi Snoussi: "Anatomy of an Identity Card"]

[Text] Minister of State Abdallah Kallel, the minister of interior, held a press conference yesterday in connection with the program to issue new national identity cards, which officially got under way on Sunday.

Mr. Kallel explained that current identity cards are being replaced for reasons of reliability, security, and efficiency.

The minister of state also announced the replacement process will extend over three to three and one-half years; the new card will bear the same number as its predecessor; it will be of unlimited duration; it will not wear out over time; and all of its elements (photograph, writing, and seals) will be laser engraved.

It should be noted the sophisticated equipment used in this operation will be operated by Tunisians.

The identity card replacement program has entered the implementation phase. The campaign was launched officially on 18 April.

To help citizens understand the modalities for issuance of the new card, Mr. Kallel held a press conference yesterday during which he said this forward-looking program was intended to remedy inadequacies of the current card.

Mr. Kallel said the new national identity card is small and made of a polycarbonate that cannot be damaged by exposure to the elements.

All the data, the photograph, and seals are laser engraved on the card, which will also bear markings and symbols that can be detected only under ultraviolet light.

The new document features two other innovations: inclusion of the mother's surname and given name (mandatory) and rhesus-factor blood type (optional).

Turning to practical considerations, Mr. Kallel discussed the campaign and its duration, the documentation needed for the card, and how to obtain it.

Campaign Described

The campaign should get under way within a week to a month; the Interior Ministry will issue a communique in the coming days announcing when the agencies concerned will begin accepting applications.

The campaign will stretch over three to three and one-half years and involve replacement of 5.2 million old cards and processing of 150,000 applications for new cards every year plus other applications due to changed circumstances (or loss of card).

The program has been organized as follows:

- 1993: Replacement of all cards issued before 31 December 1975 (300,000); issuance of new cards (150,000) and other replacements (300,000). In all, agencies concerned will issue 750,000 cards.
- 1994: Replacement of all cards issued in the first six months of 1976 (600,000), other replacements (300,000), and new cards (150,000). The total number of cards issued for the year should be 1,050,000.
- 1995: Replacement of all cards issued in the second half of 1976, other replacements, and new cards, for a total of 1,070,000.
- 1996: Replacement of all cards issued since 1977, plus issuance of other replacements and first-time cards (total: 1,280,000).

Mr. Abdallah Kallel noted that under this program existing cards will not be valid after the date fixed for their replacement, so any citizen who fails to obtain the new card is in violation and subject to penalties as provided by law (see box).

Where To Go

The process for obtaining the new cards is the same as in the past.

At the local level: The citizen may apply at the police or national guard station closest to his domicile (there are 450 stations). An agent will prepare the file, which will be sent to the Regional Police Science and Technology Center (there are 27 centers, including five in the Tunis district and one for each governorate).

At the regional level: The agent who handles identity cards feeds the information into the data processing system.

At national headquarters: The data is brought up on the computer screen and the identity card is laser engraved and sent to the appropriate police or national guard station.

The minister said that during the 10 to 15 days required to prepare the new identity card, citizens will hold onto their old card.

Mr. Kallel said that for documentary purposes citizens must present the following items with their application:

1 - For new cards:

- a. an original birth certificate issued within the first three months;
- b. three identity photos (black and white or color);
- c. a 2-dinar tax stamp;
- d. certificate of nationality;
- e. verification of employment or academic enrollment;
- f. verification of residence;
- g. parental authorization, for persons under age 18.

2 - For replacements:

- a. citizens are exempt from requirements for certificate of nationality and verification of employment;
- b. verification of any change of status;
- c. photocopy of the old card;
- d. 2-dinar tax stamp.

3 - Replacement on loss of card:

- a. birth certificate;
- b. declaration of loss;
- c. three photos
- d. 5-dinar tax stamp.

The tax stamp must be affixed to the application form. The citizen may also submit verification of blood group, but this document is optional.

Emigrant workers have not been forgotten in planning this campaign. Whenever they return to Tunisia, their applications will be processed on a priority basis at police and national guard stations

Members of the Tunisian community in France may also contact the permanent bureau responsible for preparing identity cards.

In conclusion, Mr. Kallel said the new identity card, apart from its security and durability features, will help cut down on bureaucratic red tape and spare citizens the bother of presenting numerous documents [to officials]. But by the same token citizens are obliged to provide all the information needed for preparation of the card.

[box, p 3]

Sanctions

Beginning on the date fixed by authorities, every Tunisian citizen must carry an identity card.

Any person stopped by a security agent or national guardsman is required to show his or her national identity card; failure to comply is punishable by a 5-dinar fine and prosecution under the law.

The law also punishes any attempt to alter a card or utilize someone else's card. Similarly, the law provides a 50-dinar fine for anyone who uses an identity card he or she claimed to have lost after filing a declaration of loss.

The same fine is provided for any person who submits a false verification of employment with his application for an identity card.

Security Features

The new national identity card is made of polycarbon and is therefore "unfalsifiable."

The new card cannot be "changed" by water, even if it "sits" for days on end in water or another liquid.

It cannot be falsified because once it has been tampered with it no longer preserves its original appearance.

Advanced System

Tunisia is the second country (Finland was first) to adopt this type of identity card, which utilizes an advanced computerized system on the cutting edge of technology.

Falsification 'Artists'

Mr. Abdallah Kallel said during the press conference that numerous cases have been found where old identity cards were falsified. Experts who have become "masters" in this art have "altered" old identity cards to help fugitives circulate freely and thwart justice. Mr. Kallel said the altered cards have been used both by common criminals and by fundamentalist terrorists.

Occupational Categories

Citizens must apply for a "change of identity card" whenever there has been any change affecting his or her identity, surname, given name, occupation, or address.

With regard to "occupation" data, an Expert Commission has been formed to do a detailed study of the "occupational nomenclature" to be used on the new identity card to avoid any confusion.

5.2 Million Cards

The minister announced that a total of 5.2 million new identity cards will be produced over a three-year period, in addition to the more than 150,000 new identity cards that will be issued to first-time applicants each year.

Tunisian Expertise

All operations performed on the equipment used to manufacture the new identity card will be carried out by Tunisians.

Passports Next

The new equipment acquired for the Data Processing and National Identity Center is versatile, so with the help of various additional "tools" it can be used to meet needs for other identity documents as well. In that

connection, Mr. Kallel announced that passports will be replaced in a subsequent phase in 1995 using this same procedure, since the current travel documents, he said, are alterable. [end box]

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Al-Islah Directs Training for 3,000 Afghan Arabs

93LH0006A Aden SAWT AL-'UMMAL in Arabic
26 Apr 93 p 3

[First paragraph is SAWT AL-'UMMAL lead]

[Text] "Diplomatic Circles in Sanaa and Cairo Reveal: Iran Recruits 15,000 Afghan Arabs To Carry Out Various Missions in Yemen, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, and Somalia; 3,000 Returnees From Afghanistan to Yemen Provide Military Training to Yemeni and Arab Elements; Coordinated Efforts by Sanaa and Cairo To Confront Radical Groups' Activities"

Sanaa, Cairo. Political and diplomatic circles in Sanaa and Cairo have disclosed that Iran has been able recently to recruit more than 15,000 Afghan Arabs to carry out various missions in Yemen, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Somalia, and a number of Arab Gulf states.

These circles have noted that 3,000 of those who have returned to Yemen recently after taking part in the Afghan war are providing, under al-Islah [Reform] Party's supervision and management, extensive training to Yemeni and Arab elements at camps set up for this purpose in Sa'dah Governorate and in al-Maraqishah Mountains, Abyan Governorate.

The security agencies here have recently seized large quantities of weapons smuggled across the Red Sea and other border areas and destined for these radical and [foreign]-backed elements. Meanwhile, Cairo press circles have said that Iran finances and backs these radical groups.

Within the same context, the United States of America, whose intelligence had previously trained and aided these elements during the Afghan war, finds itself now in an embarrassing position with the Arab countries, especially since the terrorist activity of these elements is aimed at attaining power by force. Moreover, U.S. interests in the region's countries are also threatened. The U.S. administration has warned its embassies to carefully guard against any rash or terrorist acts that may be perpetrated by radical groups. It has also asked the authorities of the region's states to strengthen the protection provided to its installations and citizens.

Reports say that Cairo is making efforts to coordinate with the authorities in Yemen and in other capitals to confront the radical groups' escalating activity and to exchange information on them. It is expected that Egyptian delegations will arrive in Yemen and in other capitals to discuss this issue.

SAWT AL-'UMMAL warned against these groups' activities in past editions and pointed out the establishment of training camps in Sa'dah. SAWT AL-'UMMAL had also speculated correctly that the Jihad organization, which has been behind numerous terrorist operations and assassinations, is the military wing of the al-Islah Party.

Chief Editor Lauds Legislative Elections

93LH0006C London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
11 May 93 p 24

[Jihad al-Khazin editorial: "Eyes and Ears"]

[Text] A week or so ago, the attention of AL-HAYAH's chief editor was drawn by the fact that on the front page alone, we presented the reader with five news reports ranging from wars to catastrophes of every shape and form. I proposed that we apologize to the readers on the following day for afflicting them with dejection.

The problem is that the news is always bad. However, a heated debate has been going on in Britain over this point since Martin Lewis, a British television journalist, complained in a lecture he delivered in the United States that the media focuses on bad news and ignores good news (Lewis himself could not find good news to announce and so he wrote a book about cats).

Good news could perhaps be found on both sides of the Atlantic ("U.S. Deceives Arabs Again," which is good news for the Americans but not the Arabs). But where is the good news that our press has missed!

Good local news might be of this type:

- Nafisah hasn't beaten her husband!
- A telephone contract concluded without any "commission" being paid to anybody!
- A civil servant has completed an official procedure free of charge!
- Al-Hariri hasn't purchased a new building or more land!
- Michel 'Awn hasn't made another off-the-cuff statement or Michel 'Awn returns to Marseilles.

Good Arab news might be of this kind:

- Iraq hasn't invaded a neighboring country for a week!
- Kuwait's border receives Iraqi regime's support!
- Iran hasn't financed any terrorist organization this week!
- Al-Tahrir Square hasn't experienced any explosion [recently]!
- Democratic liberties "are waiting for anybody to carry them on his back" in the Arab countries.
- Gulf states agree to protect the environment!
- Arab negotiators speak with one tongue in Washington!
- Abu-'Ammar hasn't backed any losing cause since the beginning of the year!

- Occupation troops in Gaza haven't killed a small child!
- Arab League is still alive and kicking!

Good world news would perhaps be of this type:

- East and West do not agree against Arabs!
- West intervenes in Bosnia before its last Muslim dies!
- Russian people find something to eat for two consecutive days!
- Somali people succeed in their weight loss; Somali "diet" won't gain appreciation of world's women!
- A comprehensible British political statement!
- U.S. tourists speak softly!
- Per capita income is higher in southern part of the world than it is in its northern part!
- Europe didn't sold us the streetcar!
- A barrel of oil for \$100.

The reader notices that most of the above news is good because the events have not happened. A government employee has not taken a bribe, a child has not been killed in Gaza, Abu-'Ammar has not erred, Saddam has not attacked, and the Arabs have not been deceived (for the thousandth time), and so forth [is news that has not happened].

(There was a good piece of news, which we reported at the time and deserves to be repeated, namely that Yemen, whose two parts had been united peacefully, has had free and democratic elections. After the elections, Yemen's president suggested that the president serve no more than two terms after which there would be no renewal. This is an accomplishment for all Arabs, not just for Yemenis, to be proud of. The NEW YORK TIMES itself has lauded this Yemeni accomplishment in one of its editorials. It is the first time, as far as memory can recall, that the paper lauds something Arab).

In any case, a common proverb says, "An ember burns only its spot." Therefore, what interests me in all good news is that I get to my office in the morning without encountering an editor demanding a salary raise and without having the paper banned in any country for any reason. (If an edition is not banned but one page is ripped out of it, would this be considered semigood news?)

The British journalist who writes about cats or any other Western journalist will find good news, if he looks hard and works hard. But what can we publish? We were ambitious to the point of naivete, hoping that the Arab peoples would add to the modest little they possessed. But now, our utmost ambition is that they will not lose the rest of the capital.

BANGLADESH

Economic Savings, Investment Viewed

93AS0770G Dhaka *THE NEW NATION* in English
5 Apr 93 p 7

[Text] Bangladesh's 24-billion dollar economy, in terms of the aggregate annual value of goods and services produced in it or what is known as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), has shown signs of increased stability on the macro-economic front. Of late, there is a marked improvement in foreign exchange reserves which stood at about two billion dollars in early March, 1993 compared with 740 million dollar in March 1992. The current account deficit has also witnessed a reduction (-9%), revenue collection have improved. Investments are showing some signs of acceleration. Inflation has been contained at less than five percent. The country's macro-economic stability, because of economic reforms undertaken in recent years, has been commended by the multilateral donor agencies and development organizations.

The growth in GDP is now projected at about five percent in fiscal 1992-93, because of a good agricultural performance particularly in food crop sub sector. The GDP growth performance will be remarkably up this year from the last two years when the rate of economic growth averaged at slightly lower than four per cent.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), in its policy paper released in November last year, forecast that Bangladesh would enjoy significant growth in 1993 shrugging off the impact of slowdown in western economies, with strong export and high domestic demand. According to the ADB report, the growth in Bangladesh's GDP will rise to six percent in 1993. In contrast, the world economy is projected to grow by only one percent this year and not much higher than two percent in 1993. Bangladesh has thus weathered global recession in remarkable shape.

The encouraging growth performance of Bangladesh economy should not however distract attention from the fact that it is one of the most populous least developed country (LDC). Its population, now estimated at 109 million or more, is overwhelmingly large, though the concentrated attention on population control and family planning activities has succeeded in bringing down the population growth rate from 2.5 percent in the mid-seventies to 2.18 percent now. The efforts are now on further consolidating the successes in population control sector. Per capita income in Bangladesh is currently estimated at 210 U.S. dollar. Low per capita income, low savings and low investments constitute the country's vicious poverty cycle and it is for breaking the fetters of this cycle that development efforts are now being redirected in the changed economic policy perspective with the private sector being assigned a greater role for productive economic activities and the role of the government being more intensely focussed on social sector, poverty alleviation and infrastructural development efforts.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI)

Sector	No. of Units	Production Capacity	No. of workers
Jute Manufactures-104 Cotton	1.43 Million tones	200,000	—
Tenteles	66 Yarn	95,344 M.kg	70,000
Tenteles	Cloth	142,663 M.mt.	—
Specialised Textiles	623 Textiles Hotery	106 M.meters, 4 M.meters	300,000
Readymade Garments	1300	600 M. Pieces	690,000
Leather/Tanneries	170	13 M.Sq.mt.	7,000
Fertilizer	6 Urea TSP	163 M. tones	7,000
—	Amon.	152,000 tones	—
—	Sulp.	12,000 tones	—
Frozen Food	83	60,000 tones	40,000
Steel and Engineering	551	US\$250 million	18,000
Tea	157	44,240 tones	100,000
Sugar	16	1,93,070 tones	28,000

External Sector

The recent trends show a marked improvement in foreign trade activities. Import payments in first half of fiscal 1992-93 were 19 per cent higher than the corresponding period last year. The surge in import activities reflected that the economy would be picking up—in current fiscal year. Imports in capital goods category have of late shown a up-trend, while food imports are on

the decline. Higher imports in this context would suggest an acceleration of the aided imports under the development budget of the government and also new private environment activities mostly in on-traditional sectors.

Export receipts have also shown a marked rise. Earnings were 32.92 percent higher in first half of current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period last year. The country's overall export earnings have considerably

increased over the years, with the major growth in such receipts coming from sectors like readymade garments, shrimps, fish, finished leather, newsprint, etc.

Exports are likely around 2.6 billion dollars in 1992-93 while imports are projected at about 3.8 billion dollars. The import-export gap is funded by foreign assistance. It is to be noted that although exports have registered a progressive and significant growth over the years, the comparatively low prices of the primary commodities in the international markets reversed the terms of trade against Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the amount of remittances from Bangladesh nationals living abroad, has increased steadily over the past 16 years—from less than 60 million dollars in 1977 to about 800 million dollars in 1992. The Gulf War has partly impacted the growth of remittance earnings in recent years.

For Bangladesh, labour immigration and remittances have helped to ease its unemployment problem as well as to reduce the savings investment and foreign exchange gaps.

Savings and Investment

The major cause of Bangladesh's sluggish economic performance over the eighties has been its declining savings and stagnating investment performance. Domestic savings as a percentage of GDP declined from 3.4 per cent in 1980-81 to 1.9 percent in 1989-90. Investments, both public and private, also declined from 15.9 percent in 1980-81 to about 11 percent in 1989-90. The decline was evident in both public and private sectors.

The recent savings and investment performance showed however a reversal of the trends in the 1980s. The latest official data would show that gross domestic savings could be about five percent of the GDP while gross investments would be over 12 percent of GDP in 1992-93. Increased investments with improved efficiency are needed most for the turn about of the Bangladesh economy.

Major Sectoral Review: Agriculture

The economic structure of the country is predominantly agro-based, followed by trade and services, and then industry. The contribution of agricultural sector to the GDP is still 40 percent. It gives employment to about 60 per cent of the labour force. It produces substantial raw materials for industries and is responsible for about 60 percent of the net total export earnings. When agricultural growth rises, it results in a higher growth for the industrial sector, when agricultural growth rate falls, industrial growth rate also fails. Any analysis of the problems and prospects for raising savings, investments and incomes in Bangladesh highlights therefore the importance of its agriculture and agro-based industries.

Industry

The industrial sector contributes about 13 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Large and medium industries employ about one million people while small and cottage industries employ approximately another five million. The present composition of major industrial sector in Bangladesh is as follows:

Beside, there are 32,867 small and 382,648 cottage industries, directly employing 5,60,000 [as published] and 10,78,000 workers respectively.

From an overall industrial point of view, jute industry plays an important role in the economy of Bangladesh. There are 68 jute mills in the country along with several jute twine mills and seven jute carpet mills. Most of the jute products are meant for the export market. Presently 58 textile mills are in full operation in the country. A good number of new textile mills are also being set up by private sector entrepreneurs. Bangladesh now produces 10 lakh metric tons of urea in its fertilizer plants. At least two more urea manufacturing plants are expected to go into production soon. Bangladesh has already started exporting urea.

Natural Resources

Bangladesh is endowed with some rich natural resources. Surveys reveal the reserves of natural gas, coal, limestone, hard rock, glass and ceramic clay in the country. Natural gas is being distributed to all industrial Zones including fertilizer and petro-chemical plants. A plan to connect the whole country's industrial areas with natural pipeline in the near future is now operational. Efforts are also on for oil exploration and other mineral deposits.

IRAN

Education, Training Budget 4 Percent of GNP

93LA0049A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 29 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] Sarakhs—ABRAR Correspondent. The education and training budget for the year 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] is 3,700 billion rials, which is expected to be 4 percent of the gross national product.

Asgari, general manager of the education and training budget, announced the above at a meeting in Sarakhs of budget and accounting officials from the Khorasan offices of education and training. He discussed the components of the national education and training budget and said: In this year's budget, the per capita expenditure on minor school repairs and replacement equipment for the deprived provinces, in addition to the per capita expenditures on health care and sports, have increased since the previous year.

As the meeting between the financial and administrative deputies and officials of the province of Khorasan Office of Education and Training continued, statistical issues

and the budget for the offices of education and training in this province were studied.

Based on this report, the financial programs for the year 1372 in the province of Khorasan offices of education and training will be designed during this meeting.

Role of Cotton in Economy Detailed

93LA0048B *Tehran ABRAR* in Persian 1 May 93 p 4

[Text] The value of the 360,000 tons of cotton produced in the country last year was estimated at 144 billion rials.

Based on the report from the Iran Cotton and Oil-Bearing Seeds Organization, of this quantity of produced cotton, 205,000 tons of unginned cotton, 114,000 tons of ginned cotton, and 4,000 tons of ginned seeds was obtained.

This report adds: Of the total cotton harvested, 14,000 tons was allocated for seed and the other 191,000 tons was turned over to the oil extraction factories, from which 27,000 tons of oil was obtained.

Based on this report, the per capita consumption of textiles in the nation's society of 60 million is 17.5 meters.

This means a per capita consumption of 2.3 kg of cotton, and in this case we need to produce 121,800 tons of cotton and 210,000 tons of unginned cotton.

Based on existing statistics, cotton production currently keeps 90 cotton-cleaning factories, 23 oil extraction factories, and 80 textile factories with 1.4 million spinning wheels operating in the country.

Likewise, 33,000 weaving machines, 907 elastic band weaving units, 60,000 hand-weaving machines, 800 small weaving factories, 13 machine-carpet units, 37 blanket-weaving units, 300 sock-weaving units, 6 towel-weaving units, 20 tarp-weaving units, and several hydro-foil cotton factories continue operating by producing this product.

Based on existing information, cotton production plays a major part in employing the nation's manpower, so that last year about 85,000 cotton farmers were growing cotton on 190,000 hectares of land.

Funds Allocated for Expansion of Water Resources

93LA0048A *Tehran ABRAR* in Persian 28 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Kermanshah—IRNA. With the agreement of the president of the republic, 70 billion rials credit was allocated to implement national strategic programs to develop water resources in three deprived provinces in the western part of the country.

Engineer 'Azizi, deputy for regional water affairs in the western part of the country, announced the above. He said: Using these credits, which are separate from the

credits allocated annually for water affairs, 18 reservoir dams will be built on eight permanent rivers in the provinces of Kordestan, Ilam, and Kermanshah.

He said: With the implementation of these projects, for whose completion 780 billion rials credit is provided, 186,000 hectares of dry-farming land in these provinces will be irrigated.

Eng. 'Azizi discussed the fact that with the construction of these reservoir dams 226,000 tons will be added to the region's current wheat production. He said: This amount of wheat will provide the annual consumer bread for 1.4 million people.

He announced the fact that these lands are situated throughout the year along the runoff basin of the dams, and said: In addition to the wheat production, 966,400 tons of grains, summer crops and feed will also be produced on these lands annually.

The deputy for regional water affairs in the western part of the country said: In terms of production, the implementation of these projects, which will be completed by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, will bring about a great change in the western part of the country. It will also create employment and lead to the end of rural emigration.

Continuing, he said: This year, in addition to the credits given by the president of the republic, 60 billion rials in credits has been allocated for 73 projects in the framework of 13 national projects to develop water resources in the provinces of Kermanshah, Ilam, Kordestan, Hamadan, and Lorestan.

He added: This year's credits have increased 50 percent compared to last year's credits.

Domestic Honey Production Increased by 10,000 Tons

93LA0048C *Tehran ABRAR* in Persian 27 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] Economic Service. In the years since the triumph of the Islamic revolution the number of honeybee hives has increased from 850,000 to 1.6 million.

The Public Relations Office of the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade reports that during this period 168 beekeeping cooperatives were formed and about 41,000 beekeepers were hired in these cooperatives.

Based on the same report, there are already 1.6 million modern honeybee hives in the country, and there is an annual need for at least 800,000 queen bees in the country.

So far the reconstruction crusade has created 19 queen-bee-raising stations in Najafabad, Kho'ei, Langrud, Gorgan, Central Province, Khorasan, Fars, Khuzestan, and Kerman. Currently 250,000 honeybee colonies are being kept in traditional hives in the nation's rural areas.

This report adds: During the years of the First Five-Year Plan through the end of the year 1371 [20 March 1993], 1,527,000 tons of honey was produced and in the last five years production grew by 10,000 tons.

The same report adds: The goal of the Five-Year Plan was average annual growth of 8.82 percent in honey production, and in practice there was annual growth of 15.53 percent, with average growth of 6.71 percent higher than the goal in the plan.

Company's Urban Development Projects Detailed
93LA0048D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 28 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] Economic Service. With annual production of 700,000 tons of sugar in the seven units of the Sugar Cane Development Company and affiliated industries in Khuzestan, our nation will no longer need to buy sugar abroad, and 25,000 new jobs are being created.

Likewise, annually 700,000 tons of livestock feed, 350,000 tons of paper, 100,000 tons of neoprene, and 20,000 tons of animal protein are produced in the Sugar Cane Development Company's units.

ABRAR's correspondent reports that these statements were made by Engineer 'Abbasqoli Zangu'ipur, the Sugar Cane and Secondary Industries Development Company's deputy for planning and projects during a visit to this company's seven units in Ahvaz. He added: Operations to implement the Sugar Cane and Secondary Industries Development Project began on 12/7/1370 [26 February 1991] in the presence of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the republic, and since then much effort has been made in the areas of water and soil, industry, housing, and urban construction.

Continuing, he said: These operations are continuing on 12,000 hectares of agricultural land and about 3,000 hectares of housing and administrative sites. In the total of seven units, about 18,000 km of drainage canals, 15,000 km of water pipes, thousands of km of "hydrophyllum" (water transfer pipes), 1,000 km of railroad to ship pipes, hundreds of km of connective roads, several thousand km of farm roads and hundreds of km of protective earth works are being built, and to ship the sugar and other products produced in the Sugar Development Company to the farthest points in the country, the national railroad is being expanded.

According to Eng. Zangu'ipur, in implementing the Sugar Development Project, which is the nation's largest development project, foreign consultants are being used only in the industrial sector, and the other operations are being carried out by Iranian engineers and specialists. Likewise, efforts have been made to have constructive nations also transfer technology to our country at the [same] time factories are installed, so that when the first factory is installed 30 percent of the parts, and by the time of the seventh factory, almost 100 percent of the parts are built in Iran.

Elsewhere in his talk, he said: So far in more than 65 percent of the contracts carried out in the agricultural sector, water pumping stations, irrigation and drainage networks, connective roads, and protective earthworks are being built and grading operations are being carried out, and the project's operations are being implemented in accordance with the timetable of the Five-Year Plan.

In conclusion Eng. Zangu'ipur said: With the installation of factories by constructive nations, in the fall of the year 1374 [1995] the seven agriculture and industry projects will be 30 percent operational and will gradually reach full capacity.

Labor Official on Conditions in Hamadan

93LA0048F Tehran ABRAR in Persian 28 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] Hamadan—ABRAR Correspondent. Work on the creation of Self-Employment Market One in the province of Hamadan will begin soon, with credits of 550 million rials.

This was announced by the general manager of labor for the Hamadan Office of Social Affairs at a press conference. He said: Speaking on the occasion of Worker Week, he said that this market is being created on a 1,300-meter site in Hamadan's Baba Taher Square. Concerning the credits spent for this project, he said: So far more than 600 million credits have been paid to more than 850 qualified applicants for the individual and household production projects.

He added: This amount was obtained and paid from the credits in Note 3. More than 360 million rials of it was spent in the year 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993], and this is 2.5 times the amount spent in the year 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992].

The general manager of labor for the province of Hamadan Office of Social Affairs, in explaining the employment situation in the province of Hamadan, said that one of the reasons for the lack of growth in employment-creating industries in this province is the lack of investment in the private sector. He said: Of the more than 10,000 people who registered in this office's labor units last year, 2,300 went to work in industrial and service units, and this figure represents a growth of 4 percent over the year 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992]. This official is responsible for the positive assessment and implementation of the Labor Law and its guidelines in the province of Hamadan. He said: To learn more about the worker community in the province using the concepts and fundamentals of the Labor Law in the categories of jobs, wages and other areas, 36 short- and long-term classes have been held in the province of Hamadan's worker units.

He said that the province of Hamadan General Office of Labor and Social Affairs has 60 employees serving the worker community in 16 different areas. Noting that one of these areas is labor relations, he said: Last year, in 1,046 meetings, 2,140 cases to identify and resolve

differences were studied in this general office and decisions were issued. During these meetings relations between workers and employers and the legal rights of workers were investigated. He also discussed the educational activities carried out in the worker community. He said: Last year good steps were taken with the formation of the literacy training committee and with the cooperation of the literacy crusade to uproot illiteracy in the worker community. In this regard, with the formation of seven elementary classes and six completion classes, 350 workers achieved literacy and illiteracy was uprooted in the four large worker units in the municipality of Hamadan. He mentioned the 528 various sports contests between workers as an example of the activities of the Sports Group of the Province of Hamadan General Office of Labor and Social Affairs. He said: To implement Article 154 of the Labor Law requiring the creation of sports and recreational space for workers and to implement precisely the provisions of this article from the Labor Law, so far about 40 million rials has been collected from the worker units.

He also mentioned the selection and announcement of the province model worker, efforts to create welfare services for workers, and sending more than 30 worker families to tourist and pilgrimage camps in the northern part of the country and Holy Mashhad as examples of this general office's social affairs activities. He said: To provide health care services to workers, 12 health care clinics have been activated in the large worker units and put into operation using experienced clinicians.

Tehranis Dissatisfied With Milk Price Increase

93LA0049E Tehran ABRAR in Persian 1 May 93 p 10

[Text] Tehran—IRNA. The increase in the price of pasteurized milk from 120 rials to 200 rials in the city of Tehran has met with the dissatisfaction of the people.

This price increase took place following a statement published by the Tehran Pasteurized Milk Factory.

In this regard the citizens of Tehran questioned milk distribution agents and they also said they knew nothing about this price increase.

At Tehran's Qazal Qel'eh Square, which our correspondent visited, the people declared their anxiety and dissatisfaction with this matter and called on the government to deal seriously with any kind of price increase for basic goods made by producers and distributors.

This report says that while the statement from the Tehran Pasteurized Milk Factory only announced the increase in the price for milk, some sellers increased the prices for other dairy products such as yogurt on their own.

In this regard our correspondent tried to get explanations from the officials in charge, but this effort went nowhere.

Mashhad Residents Complain About Price Increases

93LA0049D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 1 May 93 p 9

[Text] Mashhad—Abrar Correspondent. The sudden increase in the price of milk in Mashhad has met with the dissatisfaction of the people, and prices for other milk products have also increased.

Our correspondent reports that the people of Mashhad, who had been standing in lines at the distribution sites since the early hours of the morning, were faced with an increase in the price of milk from 100 rials to 150 rials.

In interviews with our correspondent, the people expressed their dissatisfaction with the price increases and said: Actions like this have made the people lose hope in their future, and they put psychological and nervous pressure on society.

Recently the prices of goods have risen because of the unification of the foreign exchange rate and all the needs of the people are being sold at various prices, higher than the day before.

After milk became expensive, then the prices went up for yogurt, cheese, butter and all dairy products, and these high prices will definitely spread to other goods, especially basic goods.

A housewife, who had been standing in line to buy milk, said: I am forced to reduce the four bottles of milk we use daily for yogurt, cheese and to feed my young child to two bottles per day. This increase in prices has disturbed the people.

In a contact with the governor general of Khorasan's economic officials, our correspondent learned that the announcement of the new price for milk was made without coordination with the governor general of Khorasan, and many people complained by telephone until 1300 about the existing situation.

Feda'i, an official at the Khorasan Pasteurized Milk Factory, answered a question from our correspondent about the reason for the increase in the price of milk. He said: The increase in the price was made in accordance with a measure approved by the Economic Council and the Producer and Consumer Protection Organization.

Coastal Freeway Construction, Other Projects Planned

93LA0049C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] Rasht—IRNA. To develop economic and social programs and prevent the advance of the waters of the Caspian Sea, a coastal freeway is being built in the province of Gilan.

Engineer Taha'i, governor general of Gilan, said: The construction of this freeway has been approved by Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president of the republic and chief of the Plan and Budget Organization.

Emphasizing the construction of a railroad from Astara in the Republic of Azarbaijan to Astara in Gilan, the governor-general of Gilan said: This line, eight km in length, will connect the nation's national railroad network to the those of Eastern Europe and the Central Asian nations, and it will have many economic and social effects.

He said: The credits needed for this project are to be provided in next year's budget.

He said: Another important economic project for the region and the nation is making the Rasht-Qazvin road a four-lane route, and studies for that have begun.

Basic Aircraft Repairs Performed Domestically

93LA0049B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 3 May 93 p 4

[Text] Economic Service. The project to rebuild, produce, and replace all aircraft cabin parts has been successfully carried out for the first time by the Engineering and Repair Division of the Airline Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran (HOMA) on this company's 727 aircraft.

Sa'id Rezaqi, general manager of public relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran Airline Company HOMA announced this news. He said: This has been done to improve aircraft cabins and build new ones and also to save on foreign exchange, in accordance with international standards and using today's modern scientific methods.

He added: One of the effective factors in the growth and prosperity of an airline and a nation's aircraft industry is making good use of the potential of experienced manpower, and planning to increase the efficiency of this manpower, and in airlines, units such as engineering and repairs play a basic role.

HOMA's general manager of public relations added: In the implementation of the aforementioned project, basic repairs were made to 3,823 parts by the experienced engineering and repair personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran Airline HOMA, expending a total of about 5,000 hours.

Rabies-Like Disease Reported in Bandar 'Abbas

93LA0049H Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] Gavbandi, Bandar 'Abbas—IRNA: The spread of a suspicious disease among the wild animals in the district of Gavbandi in Bandar 'Abbas has made them rabid.

This disease has now killed more than 50 dogs and cats in the desert villages of the district of Gavbandi. The disease has no specific symptoms, and animals infected with it die after two or three days.

In the same regard, the Health Care Center at Bandar Langeh has sent teams to study, research, and test the type of disease to the region.

After being infected with this disease, a wild cat bit the hand of a 70-year-old woman.

Shortage of Essential Drugs Reported in W. Azarbaijan

93LA0049F Tehran ABRAR in Persian 28 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] Nowshahr—IRNA. Patients in the cities of West Azarbaijan face many difficulties obtaining basic drugs.

Several pharmacists in the cities of West Azarbaijan confirmed this and said that the main malfunctions having to do with the distribution of specialist and basic drugs are caused by the improper rationing of drugs in the country.

These pharmacists also said: Every three months the companies distributing drugs in the province of Mazandaran are required to distribute specialist drugs in this region, so that personal preferences have prevented the timely availability to patients of these vital drugs.

Health Ministry Aims To Segregate Hospitals

93LA0049G Tehran ABRAR in Persian 28 Apr 93 p 10

[Text] The Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education intends to gradually separate men's and women's hospitals and men's and women's departments, and in this regard, with Majles approval, 5 percent of the credits for the generic project to implement the project to separate men's and women's hospitals and departments has been allocated.

IRNA reports that Larijani, deputy minister of health care, treatment and medical education for educational and Majles affairs, who had traveled to the province of Lorestan, announced the above. He said: In the month of Tir this year [22 Jun-22 Jul] the International Congress on Medical Ethics will meet in Tehran, attended by professors from the nation's universities and foreign professors.

He added: This congress will meet to study the role of ethics in the medical profession, and so far 300 articles have been sent to the congress secretary.

Document Registration Organization in Need of Funds

93LA0048E Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] To create a vigorous new document registration system during the government's Second Five-Year Social, Economic, and Cultural Development Plan, 170 billion rials in credits is needed, and if these credits are approved and procured, it will be possible to provide rapid service to the people and to identify the nation's citizens at home and abroad.

Rahmani, chief of the National Document Registration Organization, who had traveled to Zahedan, announced the above. He said: Since the beginning of the year 1367 [21 March 1988], 300 projects have been implemented

to rebuild and build anew the nation's document registration system, of which 200 have gone into service.

He added: In the current year 95 of the 300 projects have also been started and will go into service, and a total of 100 billion rials in credits has been spent on the project to reform the system.

The chief of the National Document Registration Organization added: The foreign exchange cost of these projects is \$25 million, in addition to 30 billion rials. The latter figure, spent from the 100 billion rials in credits, is credits allocated by the Provinces Planning Committee.

Rahmani said: To reform the organizational structure in the National Document Registration Organization, in recent years 270 offices have been opened in the nation's districts, and authorization has been obtained from the government to station a representative in every village, and this project is being implemented in 500 villages this year.

Concerning manpower procurement, he said: So far 3,500 people have been hired in the National Document Registration Organization, of which 45 percent are people who have sacrificed for the revolution.

He said: This year the offices of the National Document Registration Organization will issue 7.5 million new identification cards for the years prior to 1310 [21 Mar 1921-20 Mar 1922] and for people born this year.

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